

# the chronicle

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*This will update every Saturday*



## New scheme aims to target fraudsters

Council workers or outside groups which try to defraud the council are targeted by a new scheme. Dudley Council has launched a hotline and website so people and workers can blow the whistle on staff or groups they believe are wrongly using the authority's cash and equipment.

Bosses from the council said it was committed to ensuring money and resources were used for the intended purpose – to meet the needs of people in the borough.

Both residents and council staff will be able to report any suspicion of fraud which will then be investigated by a specialist team.

This includes fraudulent use of money, such as people getting cash they are not entitled to, including payments for contracts, supplies or grants. It can also include the stealing or misusing of council resources, such as stores, equipment, vehicles or buildings belonging to the authority.

The website can be accessed at [www.dudley.gov.uk/fraud](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/fraud) or alternatively the hotline number is 01384 814242 where people will be asked to leave a recorded message.

The authority said setting up the service had incurred no costs as it was simply adding pages to the existing website and the installation of an extra internal phone line.

Councillor David Blood said: "Taxpayers, service users and the council all have a vested interest in ensuring the authority's money and property from those who seek to steal or misuse it."

"Dudley Council has zero tolerance against fraud."

People can also write to the council's head of audit services to express any concerns or suspicions to Dudley Council, Council House, Priory Road, Dudley, West Midlands DY1 1HF.

## Museum looks to shed 7 jobs

Up to seven jobs could be axed at the Black Country Living Museum under a shake-up of catering services at the attraction.

Bosses at the Dudley site say they want to make restaurants and cafes more "financially sustainable" in the coming months. A consultation will be held with staff about the potential job losses, say museum bosses. Details of any food operations which could be closed as part of the plan have not yet been revealed by the museum, in Tipton Road.

Bosses say other departments and operations at the museum are not under threat by the proposals. The heritage museum has seven food and drink outlets throughout the 26-acre site. These include the Bottle and Glass Inn in the village and two period fish and chip shops.

New for this year was Hobbs' Courtyard which offers a waitress service. There is also the Canalside Cafe and Rolfie Street cafe bar and a smaller "Grab and Go" sandwich bar.

Black Country Living Museum spokeswoman Helen Taylor said: "The museum is currently considering and consulting with affected staff on proposals to improve and make more financially sustainable, parts of its food and drink operation."

"If the proposals go ahead, it could, unfortunately, result in up to seven job losses, although the museum is committed to doing all it can to minimize any job losses. The proposals do not affect any other aspect of the museum."

Around 300,000 people visit the museum annually.

Future of popular waterways event looks in doubt

# FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS MAY BE PUT OUT

[dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk)

The future of a popular waterways festival which attracts more than 12,000 people to a Black Country canal has been thrown into doubt after this year's event was scrapped.

Bosses at Dudley Council this week admitted they had cancelled the annual Festival of Water and Light – which has been held at The Waterfront, Brierley Hill, for the past 12 years – as funding was increasingly difficult to find.

The announcement was met with disappointment from boating fans who traditionally stage a parade along the canal as part of the evening.

But instead they rallied together and seven boats staged their own mini celebration at the canal.

Council leader Les Jones said they were working towards finding a way forward for the music festival, which also features fireworks, dance groups and a fun fair.

### Supported

"The agreement the council had with a private event management company came to an end following last year's festival," he said. "The event was run at cost-neutral for many years as it was supported through private sponsorship."

"In recent years due to the economic climate, this private investment has inevitably been harder to secure."

"The council is not looking to continue its involvement."

However, he added, a private company had shown interest and is currently in discussions with the council over taking on the running of the event in the future.

Waterways enthusiast Paddy Grice – who is also director of the Black Country Boating Festival – said boaters had become increasingly concerned when he was unable to find out any information about the future of this year's festival.

He rallied other enthusiasts, including members of Dudley Canal Trust and Birmingham Canal Navigations Society, to stage a replacement event over the past weekend.

Instead of the usual venue of The Waterfront, they moored their narrowboats along the Dudley Canal next to the Merry Hill Shopping Centre on Saturday night.

## Hair-lo, hair-lo, hair-lo Anita returns

A FORMER police woman who started her working career as a hair-dresser has returned to her roots in Halesowen after suffering the brunt of government cut backs.

Anita Dyson, of Forge House hair and nails, Mucklow Hill, appeared in The Chronicle eight years ago when she took part in a Channel 4 reality show Apply Immediately.

The show followed her dramatic career move to the force serving the Birmingham community and the difficulties in her new post.

But for the last six years she has tutored 14 to 18 year old pupils, on the point of exclusion from school, at Quintzone Vocational Centre, which, due to lack of funding, was forced to close in April.

Now Anita, aged 51, hopes to provide job opportunities to local entrepreneurs as she tries to rebuild her business.

Anita, of Hayden Hill, said: "It feels great to be back, the industry has changed so much but it's an exciting place to be and I am looking forward to the next phase of business."

"I know how it feels to be out of work so I want to support other experienced hair and beauty operators get into business and offer them a place to set up and build their own enterprise."

The salon has vacancies for four more about renting a chair or beauty space then contact Anita at the salon on 0121 270 4459.



Anita Dyson who has recently opened a new hairdressing salon in Mucklow Hill, Halesowen after a career as a police officer with nail technician Andrew Rumford

Essex, has recently joined the team.

To book an appointment or to find out more about renting a chair or beauty space then contact Anita at the salon on 0121 270 4459.

## Residents planning a big protest

Elderly residents at a closure-threatened care home in the Black Country will take their protest to the council house steps in a last ditch bid to halt the plans.

More than 3,000 have signed a petition backing campaigners trying to save New Bradley Hall care home, in Kingswinford. The care home, off Compton Drive, is one of three that could shut in the next three years under a shake up of Dudley social care services. Cabinet agreed to back the scheme last month. A full-council decision will be taken on Monday. But residents, led by 78-year-old Harry Griffiths, are planning a final demonstration against the plan as councillors arrive for the 6pm meeting. Placards and signs are being prepared ready for the protest.

Mr Griffiths, a retired lorry driver, said: "We will go right to the last moment with this one and do all we can to make them think again. We all feel strongly about this situation as you could see by the number of people who attended our protest meeting last week. We want to show that we just want to stay here and not be messed around."

He added residents intended to collect up to 3,000 signatures by Monday's meeting to show the strength of support against the proposal.

Chairman of last week's meeting Max Scott, whose 94-year-old mother-in-law, Irene Claridge lives at New Bradley Hall, has urged people to write to the authority in a hope the closure plans would be scrapped.

The council discussed a programme of closures which will see New Bradley Hall in Kingswinford, New Bridge House in Cosley and New Swinford Hall in Stourbridge close their doors by April 2014, along with Shenstone House in Halesowen, which will close in March.

Outgoing adult social care boss Councillor Lesley Faulkner previously said the decision had not been made to cope with budget cuts, but that it was part of action to keep elderly people independent and in their own homes for longer.

## It's a fur cop for mouse burglary

A drunken burglar stole two frozen mice from a home possibly because he thought they were drugs, but left valuables behind a court heard.

Richard Scarrett, aged 28, broke into a property in Wallace Road, Wolverhampton and raided the freezer, where the property owner kept mice to feed to his pet snakes.

Scarrett, of New Road, Dudley, was drunk at the time and a theory put forward by the prosecution is he took the mice because they looked like drugs.

Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting, said: "It may have appeared that they looked like drugs in their frozen state."

He added Scarrett had cut his hand and left blood at the scene after the offence in April. He originally denied the offence when police arrested him 10 days later, and when confronted with the DNA evidence he claimed he had heard the break-in and when he went to help he had cut his hand on the window.

But he admitted burglary at the first opportunity in court.

Mr Jasvir Mann, defending, said: "He was plainly very very drunk. There were more valuable items from this address which he didn't take."

Judge Amjad Nawaz sentenced him to 40 weeks imprisonment, suspended for 12 months, with a supervision order for 12 months with an alcohol treatment programme.

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## Two dragged from vehicles by carjackers

Carjackers targeted three motorists within four hours in a Black Country borough – pulling a terrified pensioner from his vehicle and speeding off with his dog inside.

The 81-year-old was one of two drivers dragged from their cars, while another two victims were robbed in the street in a spree which detectives believe may have been carried out by the same attackers. The robberies in Dudley began when a woman was knocked to the ground before having her bag stolen as she walked along grassland off Wrens Nest Road just before 11am.

Just over an hour later police received two reports of car-jackings in Dudley. In the first, two people tried to steal a Hyundai car from a couple on Martins Hill Street. They were unsuccessful and the couple raised the alarm.

Moments later, an 81-year-old man was forced from his car outside Dudley Leisure Centre. He was dragged from his Peugeot at 12.25pm. The victim's dog was inside at the time and was taken along with the car. Ten minutes later the car crashed at the junction of Baptist End Road and Cinder Bank in Netherton. The culprits fled on foot, leaving the dog, who was later reunited with his owner.

### Attacked

Around an hour later, a man was attacked and robbed of his mobile phone and wallet as he walked along the canal towpath near to Highbridge Road in Netherton. The 42-year-old was taken to hospital with facial injuries. And later that afternoon, a man parked at the Merry Hill Centre was threatened and forced from his Ford Fiesta in the multi-storey car park near to Debenhams, shortly after 3pm.

DS Mick Greenland, from the force criminal investigation department, said: "At this stage it is difficult to confirm that the offences are all linked, however initial descriptions and the locations give us cause to think they may be connected."

● A 14-year-old from Dudley and a 15-year-old from Pen-snett have been arrested and are being questioned. Anyone with information should call 0345 113 5000.

## Cathedral's campaign

A new campaign to help raise funds for ongoing repairs needed at a historic Midland cathedral has been launched.

Restoration works began at Worcester Cathedral in 1988 and since then, the entire exterior of the building have been restored. However bosses say that to ensure the site doesn't need to undergo such work again, an ongoing programme of repair and conservation needs to be continued.

On October 29 Voices Unlimited will be performing live at the cathedral to help raise both awareness and money for the conservation and repair programme.

To by tickets for the concert, contact Huntington Hall on 01905 611427.

# Spending cuts will not hit level of service vow

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Millions of pounds of spending cuts that will see almost 400 posts go at West Midlands Police will not stop it providing a top-level service to the public, the force's most senior officer has vowed.

A funding shortfall of £134 million over the next four years means Chief Constable Chris Sims has been forced to take drastic measures to save money.

Plans were agreed by police authority councillors last week to scrap hundreds of posts. A total of 173 police officer and 217 police staff positions will go – some through compulsory redundancy – over the coming year as part of a drive to save £25m. Mr Sims admitted tough decisions had been made.

"We totally understand the whole public concern about cuts in policing," he said.

"It's become a very political issue, as well as an issue of local concern. The reassurance is that we said we would need to lose 2,300 staff at the start. "With this work, by the end of the next

financial year, we will have lost 1,800. In a sense, although work will carry on and there's lots more to do, the bulk of big change is almost behind us."

### Firearms

Forensics, firearms and child abuse units will have their budgets reduced, while eight police dogs, their handlers and 65 traffic officers are likely to be cut.

Deputy Chief Constable David Thompson said the moves would ensure the force would be more "efficient" and allow for investment in other areas. And Mr Sims is confident that the force will continue to deliver a high level of service.

He said: "I'd invite people concerned to reflect on the past month. We've managed a party political conference, had the impact of the investigation from the August riots, run probably the biggest counter-terrorism unit operation the country has seen for some time, and have had as a month just about the lowest level of crime for several years."



Chris Sims

## Opening for school which beat funds axe

A £23 million Black Country school which was funded through the Government's scrapped Building Schools for the Future scheme has been officially opened.

The Bishop of Aston, the Rt Rev Andrew Watson, led celebrations at St Michael's Church of England High School in Rowley Regis.

The school moved into its new campus in Curral Road earlier this year, along with Whiteheath Pupil Referral Unit and Westminster School. Combined, the site is known as the Rowley Learning Campus.

The schools will remain three separate institutions but there will be 1,650 students and staff on the campus. The landmark development is taking shape at the former Rowley College site.

Pupils and staff there can enjoy modern glass-fronted buildings, new classrooms, an open-plan dining area and specialist ICT equipment. It also has a state-of-the-art sports hall and a theatre.

### Performances

Around 250 guests attended the official opening including pupils, parents, teachers, councillors and officials, representatives from Birmingham Diocese, St Giles Church and other local faiths, partner agencies and feeder primary schools. During the event there were live musical performances as well as Bible readings by students and an address by Bishop Watson.

Acting head teacher Mike Wilkes said: "This was a joyous occasion to celebrate our new home."

Funding for the campus was secured before the Building Schools for the Future scheme was axed.

In Sandwell, 10 schools missed out on £138m of funding after Education Secretary Michael Gove ended the scheme last July soon after the Coalition Government took office.



Acting head Mike Wilkes, left, with the Bishop of Aston Andrew Watson and chairman of the governors Colin Nicholls, officially opening the school



Pupils raising their voices to join in hymns sung at the opening ceremony

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# Jogger helps to run down bagsnatchers

dudleychrons@  
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A have-a-go hero helped catch thieves after they stole a pensioner's handbag in a busy Black Country town centre.

Father-of-three Michael Essom was on an eight-mile jog with his wife Sophie when he was involved in the drama.

The couple were running around the corner of Hagley Road and the ring road in Stourbridge town centre when men ran past them laughing. Moments later a member of the public started shouting to stop the men, telling them they had stolen an 84-year-old woman's handbag.

Mr Essom, aged 43, from Stourbridge, took off, running after the thieves as they made off across the ring road and up Church Street past The Old Crispin - dumping the bag on a wall as they ran.

## Laughing

"You don't think about it really, it's just second nature, I thought I had to do something," he said. "It was the fact they were laughing that annoyed me."

Mr Essom chased after them, managing to grab one and pin them down outside Stourbridge Fire Station.

Someone helped him keep hold of the man. Police arrived and caught the second man.

"It was a real community effort with everyone shouting out telling me where to run," he said. "It shows a good community spirit."

Mrs Essom stayed with the pensioner until police arrived and her husband said they would like to meet the woman again.

The drama happened at 10.30am on September 26, with the theft happening near the Chequers Inn. Three people aged 20, 21 and 37 were arrested and have been bailed.

Witnesses should call police on 0345 113 5000.



Have-a-go-hero Michael Essom, with wife Sophie, praised community spirit

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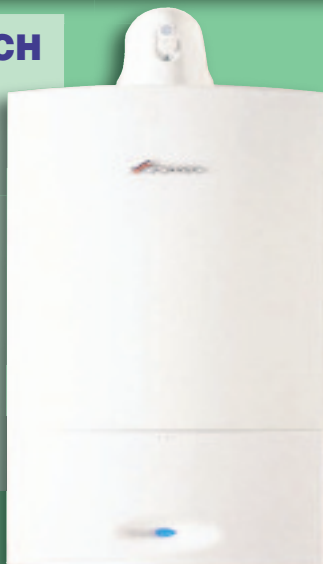
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# Workers sought for festive jobs

More than 150 Christmas vacancies at Dudley's Merry Hill Shopping Centre will be up for grabs, with thousands expected to apply for the positions at an annual jobs fair.

Large stores and eateries at the complex, in Brierley Hill, have temporary positions available during the run-up to the festive period in both full and part-time posts.

Officials at Merry Hill said many stores had now confirmed the numbers they were looking to take on

– but stressed more positions could become available.

Job seekers will be able to apply for the posts at an annual jobs fair organised by centre bosses which is regularly attended by thousands of people.

A date for the event has still to be announced as organisers have yet to confirm a venue for the fair to take place this year.

It was originally planned for the fair to take place in a vacant unit at the shopping centre but this fell through.

An alternative site has been suggested and organisers are now waiting on a final agreement before confirming final plans for the event.

Temporary vacancies will be available at stores including Debenhams, the Early Learning Centre, Jeff Bains shoes and Toys R Us. Positions are also available at food outlets in the shopping centre such as McDonald's.

Debenhams has 62 posts available and at Toys R Us there are 30 positions which need to be filled.

## Churches rejoice at decision

Churches which have suffering at the hands of metal thieves have been thrown a lifeline as English Heritage softened its stance on how loaders can deal with the problem.

Religious bosses across Staffordshire and the Black Country have recently welcomed the news as the heritage body backed down from its former position which forced churches to replace stolen lead with more lead, leaving them vulnerable to repeated attacks.

### Security

Now, if church leaders can convince them their security measures are not enough to prevent thefts, English Heritage will support the use of alternative materials.

Leaders said it will be a "huge help" to congregations who have to foot the bill when thieves strike.

Rev Richard Reeve, from St Michael and All Angels in Tettenhall, said the new guidance was "very sensible".

The church has been targeted eight times in the past two years.

## Former Marine turns to poetry

A former Royal Marine from the Black Country is preparing to publish his ending to an English poet's most famous works.

Russell Hawkins has worked on his ending to Samuel Taylor Coleridge's *Kubla Khan* and *The Dark Ladie* over the past decade. The 46-year-old, from Stourbridge, graduated from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, in 1990, and served in Germany and Australia. He eventually joined the Royal Marine Reserve and is also a keen martial artist.

The finished piece has been seen by the Lord William Coleridge, a descendant of the poet, who called Mr Hawkins' work "absolutely brilliant" in a statement for the book.

"I have always had the attitude of wanting to give something a go and try something new," he said.

Inspired by the works of Coleridge, Mr Hawkins has brought to together his poetry in a book entitled *Sunrise over Avalon*.



Stourbridge author Russell Hawkins, who has published the book *Sunrise over Avalon* containing his endings to two Samuel Taylor Coleridge poems

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# Scheme to restore glassworks delayed

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Work to restore a historic former glassworks in Stourbridge badly damaged by arsonists has been delayed.

Bosses are battling to start work before winter on the former Stuart Crystal factory in High Street, Wordsley, as the roof is resting where it fell during the blaze.

The repairs have been set back amid delays from insurance companies.

But developers want to secure the site so it is not damaged further.

They want to get it done "as soon as possible" so planning can continue for a £5 million glass museum linked to the nearby Red House Glass Cone, via an underground tunnel.

Although project chiefs say the delay will not affect the overall museum scheme in the long term, they admit that it is "frustrating". They originally announced work was due to start six weeks ago but it stalled at the last minute.

## Grinding

David Freer, director of site owners Complex Developments, said: "The process is grinding slowly forward."

"My original timescale after the fire was weeks but it has taken longer than expected to pursue the claim with the insurers."

"I want to get the building secure before the winter sets in and snow and ice starts causing damage."

There were fears the building would have to be demolished, throwing the scheme into doubt, but engineers decided the main structure could be saved.

The blaze in May also gutted the building and damaged some of the walls. Since then there have been a number of vandalism attacks, including a fire in one of the other six units on the site.

Mr Freer added: "With a good head wind we can get the work done in four weeks and hopefully get it done before the end of the year."

Under the plans the six listed buildings on the Stuart Crystal site would be transformed into a new glass museum with an underground link to the Red House Glass Cone.

## Warriors leap into action



Shaolin Wushu Warriors, Li Feng and Wei Yuan, watched by Dennis Adam, 11 from Smethwick

Martial arts experts rolled into Smethwick ahead of their performance with The Circus Of The Orient this week.

All the fun of the big top will come to Victoria Park from October 7-9, with a circus specially designed to visit locations beyond the reach of other productions of an

international standard. Among the talent on show will be the Shaolin Wushu Warriors.

The group will show off stunning kung fu and karate skills and have been allowed to appear by permission of the Abbott of the Shaolin Temple and the Chinese Ministry Of Culture.

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## thechronicle

## Hospital trust fails to meet target

A hospital trust failed to meet its target of achieving a £500,000 cash surplus to re-invest in services as expenditure rose over the past year, new figures have revealed.

Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust spent £249.4 million over the past financial year up from £228.9 million in 2010/11. And the trust had originally expected a surplus of £500,000 in the coffers at the end of the financial year. Instead it achieved £275,000. This was down from £1.8 million the previous year.

Director of Finance Paul Assinder told the annual members meeting it had been a challenging year for the

trust with austerity measures at national level and freezing conditions last winter taking their toll.

He told the meeting, held at Dudley's Russells Hospital, the trust had to act quickly to deal with higher patient figures over the winter months because of the severe weather. He said 65 beds had been committed by the trust and locums brought in to ensure patients were treated to a high standard and efficiently.

"It has been a challenging year but we have achieved and in some cases exceeded all of the major targets that we were set for the year," he said.

"We had originally expected to

achieve a surplus of £500,000 for the last financial year and the final figure is less. However we knew that it was going to be a smaller figure than last year."

Mr Assinder said despite the challenging conditions the trust had still been able to spend £9m on improvements and new equipment.

He said £5.4m had been spent on a new multi-storey car park at the hospital along with £2.9m updating equipment and a further £1.1m revamping the north block. Another £1.3m had been spent on a new MRI scanner and £600,000 upgrading IT equipment at the site.

## Firm gives church a free door

A firm has stepped in to help churchgoers by making and fitting a new door free of charge following a break-in. Members of Cradley Forge Methodist Church, in Quarry Bank, were facing a bill of up to £750 to replace the internal door which was not covered by insurance.

It was damaged during the break-in which took place at the site, in Hammer Bank, around three weeks ago.

But when members of the church contacted Total Plastics, in Brierley Hill, about a replacement, bosses offered to carry out the work for free. Managing director Dean Davis said his son Presley, now 19 months-old, had been christened at the church and he wanted to do something to help.

He said: "I believe the outside door damaged in the break-in was covered by insurance but not the internal door we have supplied. We were absolutely delighted to help out the church."

Fitter Martin Wallace, installed it this week helped by church member Ray Webb, aged 83.

## Student starts new Zumba classes

A university student from Dudley has launched a series of new Zumba classes in the town.

Fitness fan Stacey Flynn, who is studying graphic design at Birmingham City University, says she has started the sessions as they are fun and suitable for all ages.

Classes take place at Club Dudley on Waterloo Road.

The 19-year-old from Russells Hall said: "I love Zumba because anyone can do it, whatever size they are or age."

"It is fun, not like a chore which going the gym can feel like. You don't even realise you are exercising."

Miss Flynn said she has people between the ages of 12 and 60 attending her sessions.

They take place on a Monday and Wednesday between 7.15pm and 8.15pm and cost £3.50 to attend.



Stacey Flynn has launched new Zumba classes at Club Dudley in Waterloo Road

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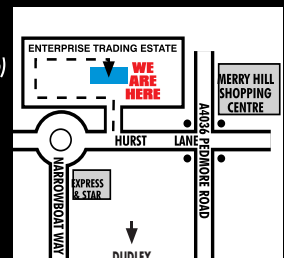
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thechronicle

# Crossings plea for 'deathtrap' rejected

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Pleas for crossings to be set up on a stretch of road near a "deathtrap" island in the Black Country have been rejected by council chiefs.

There were demands for pedestrian crossings to be installed in Cinder Bank, Dudley after a spate of accidents in recent years. Locals complain that drivers speed along the route after leaving the adjoining Dudley Southern Bypass, which has been named as one of the worst accident blackspots in the Black Country.

But Dudley Council has said the work cannot be carried out as there is already "too much street furniture" there.

A report by Dudley Council's highways team for an upcoming meeting of Central Dudley Area Committee lays out reasons why crossings will not be considered near Swan Street and Simms Lane.

## Visibility

It says: "There is a large concentration of street furniture that would interfere with the visibility of both drivers and pedestrians."

"There are also side roads and vehicle accesses near which pedestrian crossings could not be sited."

"Accordingly, pedestrian crossing facilities for the section of Cinder Bank could not be considered further while the present circumstances remain."

Local resident Ian Flower, aged 46, said: "There are so many speeding cars around here, it is frightening and there seem to be accidents almost every week."

"The problems stem from drivers building up their speed on the bypass and at the roundabout then treating Cinder Bank like a racing track."

New data from the West Midlands Casualty Reduction Scheme revealed earlier this week that in Dudley there were 508 crashes with four fatalities between June last year and this May.

The Dudley Southern Bypass, also known as Duncan Edwards Way, ranked as the borough's worst blackspot, with 17 incidents.

The figures also show that 18 people have died in crashes on routes throughout the Black Country between June last year.

Earlier this week opposition leader Councillor David Spark said the roundabout at Cinder Bank was a "deathtrap" and called for traffic lights to be installed as a matter of urgency.

## Pupils are seeing stars



In the new observatory is 'Master Glass Seller' Martin Scarth, Dudley's deputy mayor councillor Doreen Ameson and Todd Cooper

Even the sky is no longer the limit for pupils at a Dudley school - who now have their own observatory.

The glass-reinforced plastic dome observatory at The Kingswinford School houses a Meade Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope. Anna Pinto, director of science at the Kingswinford school, said: "We are very proud to be the first state comprehen-

sive secondary, to our knowledge, to have this amazing facility."

"The observatory will be very effective in making astronomy more approachable and will allow users of all ages within the school and the community to get involved in star gazing and exploring the universe."

The project to build the observatory was led by science teacher Spencer Willis.

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thechronicle

# Emotional reunion for former pupils



Ted Greenway from Wombourne, David Crump and David Thomas from Wordsley with a football team picture



Muriel and David Crump, from Bobbington, who both went to Kinver Secondary Modern and later married

Former pupils of a Kinver school got the chance to exchange memories about life in the classroom at a reunion organised for them.

More than 50 people who went to Kinver Secondary Modern School, which is now called Edgecliff High School, attended a get-together at the Enville Road school.

Among them was Muriel Crump, aged 74, from Bobbington, who was one of the school's first pupils when it opened in 1951.

Little did she know then that she would go on to marry another pupil at the school – a boy called David whom she started courting after she left.

"I did not really know David that well at the time," she said.

"You didn't think about going out with boys at the age of 13 or 14 in those days."

"I do remember it being a good school though. I remember playing netball and going on school trips."

## Names

The grandmother of four added: "It has been great to see everyone again. You don't realise who they are until you hear their names."

Another pupil who started at the school in 1951, grandfather-of-two Howard Jones, 75, of Jenks Road in Wombourne, said: "It was a good school."

"We had a good canteen that served decent food – fish and chips sometimes

and other times we got a proper cooked dinner with vegetables."

"The teachers were quite strict. If you did anything wrong you knew about it. But they were okay with me, I was not naughty."

The reunion was aimed at people who attended the school in 1951 but it was also attended by Theo Gaskin, a former deputy head in the 1980s.

"It's really nice to be back here and to see some familiar faces," said the 87-year-old father-of-two from Hyde Street in Kinver.

David Thomas, of Wordsley, organised the reunion. He said: "I am so pleased. Everyone has really enjoyed it."

"Most of the people here have not seen one another for 50 years, so it has been very emotional."

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## thechronicle

# Care complaints up by 50pc

Complaints about adult social care in the Dudley borough shot up by more than 50 per cent in a year, according to new figures.

The number of formal complaints from service users in the borough during 2010/11 was 223 – an increase of 89 from the year before, when the figure was 134. In 2008/09 Dudley Council registered 189 complaints, and 224 for 2007/08.

Nearly half of all complaints in the last year were linked to issues around reduced or withdrawn service, transfer of services or changes to services, says the report. The news comes as Dudley Council plans to shut its last remaining care homes in the borough.

One of the complaints was about a carer failing to turn up, leaving a service user "distressed and vulnerable". Other concerns included a care provider being changed without warning, and a lack of communication between staff. Reasons for the increase in complaints include a new assessment procedure being introduced, and some care services now being provided by outside bodies, the council claims.

A report to the health and adult social care scrutiny committee said: "We are increasingly addressing issues of reduced services or change of services and the impact on the individual concerned."

"It is also the case that the scope for resolving complaints satisfactorily and speedily is becoming more difficult for managers due to available resources and the criteria for receiving services."

The total number of complaints received for 2010/11 was 272, the same as for 2009/2010.

## Glowing report for pre-school

A pre-school in Wyre Forest has been given a glowing report by Government inspectors.

Lickhill Pre-school, Stourport, was ranked "outstanding" in some areas and was given a "good" rating overall in the Ofsted report by inspector Donna Stevens.

The school in Almond Way was opened in 2010 and is run by the neighbouring Lickhill Primary School.

The Ofsted report states: "The pre-school is bright and welcoming and children enjoy exciting and interesting activities that support their learning and development in all areas, enabling them to make good progress."

The report added: "Parents are welcomed into the pre-school at the beginning and end of each session. They are encouraged to play an active part in recording family events, holidays and outings in the communication books so that children can share their experiences."

Nursery manager Lisa Shorthouse said she was delighted by the report.

## Vicar with soul strikes a chord

A vicar is proving she really has got soul in more ways than one after her song lyrics were chosen in a national competition for a music CD.

The Rev Eva McIntyre's 'Too Deep for Words' song was one of just six picked from hundreds of entries for the Open Minds EP to be launched on World Mental Health Day on October 10.

Her lyrics have now been recorded by Soul band Refuge and will be used to promote the campaign.

"It was a big, and lovely, surprise to win, and I love what they've done with my words – all the songs I've heard are wonderful," said Eva, the vicar of St Michael and All Angels, Stourport and All Saints, Wilden. The competition was run by mental health organisation Safe Inside – Safe Outside (Siso).

Eva's prize includes an iPod Touch and VIP tickets to the launch event at The Y in Leicester.

Before moving to her Stourport parishes five years ago, Eva, a storyteller, actor and writer, spent three years as a chaplain in Brockhill jail, Redditch.

If you want to hear her song then log on to [www.refugemusic.co.uk/co](http://www.refugemusic.co.uk/co) mpetition.



The Rev Eva McIntyre celebrates winning a national soul band lyrics competition

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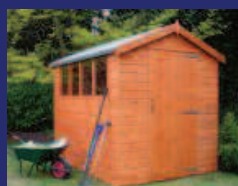
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thechronicle

# Playground to grow as numbers rising

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A Dudley adventure playground is to be extended to cope with demand after the number of children using it soared.

The Sycamore playground, between Gornal and Woodsetton, opened in July last year as part of the Government's £2.6 million Play Pathfinder project. Bosses say the playground at Sycamore Green on the Old Park Farm, is proving a hit with youngsters and they are now looking to expand the car park because of the extra numbers attracted.

Dudley councillor Liz Walker, said: "We are increasing the maximum number of children allowed at daytime play sessions from 30 to 60, which will see a significant number of extra children visiting Sycamore."

"In addition, 400 new children registered to use the facility in August, compared to 200 the previous month."

And she added: "The overspill car park will help to relieve congestion around the green and provide additional parking for visitors to the centre."

"The centre is proving very popular and numbers accessing the service have increased."

## Charging

The centre started charging groups to use the site in April this year as a result of Government funding cuts.

The facility's revenue grant, which covers running costs such as staff salaries, was cut from £130,000 to £65,000 in 2010/11 and the funding ended in March.

It is expected to cost £130,000 to run the service in 2011/12. The charges only apply to groups and borough children have still been able to use the amenity for free.

Councillor Walker said that would still be the case despite the work taking place at the centre. She added: "No increased charges for group bookings will be made and the public access play sessions for Dudley children will remain free of charge."

Features at the site include a desert island with boat, hammocks and a palm tree, a carved dragon where children can enjoy storytelling sessions, an indoor play barn and cantilever swing.

The public play sessions, which are free, are held every week.

## Peeling off some savings



Local co-ordinator Sally Frost, with Mayor of Dudley Michael Evans and hotel manager and host Matt Ward at the launch of Peel2Save discount cards

Residents in a Black Country borough will be able to get money off goods and services while raising cash for charities with the launch of a new discount card.

People will be able to buy the card from charities across the Dudley borough for £10 - with half of the money going directly to the good cause to support projects. The card contains 64 vouchers offering money off meals at diners including Pizza Hut and

Frankie and Benny's. Other vouchers can be redeemed to get money off car servicing and maintenance. The card was launched by the borough's branch of the Peel2Save charity at Brierley Hill's Copthorne Hotel. It was attended by representatives from the Dudley Group of Hospitals, Sedgley's Beacon Centre for the Blind and Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice. Charities can call Sally on 01902 896914.

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## College stalwart rewarded

A Dudley stalwart has been recognised for his contributions to the borough.

Viv Astling served Dudley for eleven years as chief executive of the council and for eight years as a governor of Dudley College, seven of these as chair of governors. Over the years he worked closely with the business community of the area and he has been presented with a citation awarded as recognition of his achievements.

He was presented with the citation by Roy Richardson from Richardsons Capital who represented local business leaders. Mr Astling was chief executive at the council between 1988 and 1999 and a governor

between 2003 and 2011 taking over as chair in 2004. Mr Astling, who lives in Sutton Coldfield, said: "It is nice to be honoured in this way." The event sponsored by Richardsons was hosted by the Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Michael Evans, and attended by representatives of the council and college.

John Freeman, the newly appointed chair of governors for Dudley College also thanked Mr Astling for his work.

● Pictured from left are John Freeman, chairman of governors at Dudley College, Dudley Council chief executive John Polychronakis, Viv Astling, Dudley Mayor Michael Evans, Roy Richardson from Richardsons Capital LLP and Honorary Life President Dudley & Sandwell Chamber of Commerce, Lowell Williams, Principal of Dudley College, Graham Knowles, Chairman of Knowles Group and Chairman Dudley Enterprise Council, Fred Hun, Former Leader of Dudley Council, Jack Edmonds, Former Leader of Dudley Council, as well as Roger Johnson, Former Chief Planning Officer Dudley Council.



Former chief executive Viv Astling, third left, is presented with his citation at the Mayor's Parlour

# Mother allowed to keep fighting dog, says court

A mother admitted keeping a fighting dog at home with her children – but was told by a court she could continue looking after it.

Tests by vets showed that the animal was 70 per cent pitbull and subject to restrictions under the Dangerous Dogs Act.

Its owner Samantha Whitley, aged 34, has been ordered to pay £500 towards the £2,700 cost of keeping the dog in kennels since it was seized by police in February.

Dudley magistrates told her they had considered ordering the destruction of the dog but instead gave her a list of conditions to make sure it is kept under control. The court was told the animal was found after police had received reports that there was a pitbull-type dog being kept at Whitley's home in Thorns Avenue, Quarry Bank.

She was charged with having custody of a fighting dog. Mr David Truelove, prosecuting, said the dog was found to be in a

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"poor condition" by officers on February 18.

He said: "This was put down to a poor level of care with insufficient level of treatment, with a possible explanation being that the owner also had three other large dogs."

Mr Gerry Vahey, defending said Whitley did not recognise it as a pitbull. He added the animal had caused "no problems whatsoever" at the home.

### Punished

Whitley was given a 12-month conditional discharge, meaning she will be punished for this if she commits another offence.

The court ordered the dog must be micro-chipped and tattooed so it can be identified, neutered, entered on a national register, muzzled and kept on a lead in public.

Her garden must also be kept secure when it is off a lead and she must get public liability insurance.

## Choir on song to help

An evening of laughter and song is on the cards as Black Country acts join to help Mary Stevens Hospice at the weekend.

The bi-annual Voices for Hospices concert – entitled Black Country Showtime – will be held on October 8 at Ambicote Christian Centre in Brettle Lane, Ambicote, in honour of World Hospice & Palliative Care Day.

Compered by local comedian Marlene, the show will star some of the region's finest talent including electro guitarist Brian Gregory, Esther Turner and Tom Hill.

The children's school choir from Peters Hill Primary School in Peters Hill Road, Ambicote, will be appearing.



Members of Peters Hill School choir warm up for the show with Janet Jones from Mary Stevens

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thechronicle

# MI5 now recruiting telephone call spies

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People who speak Arabic and other foreign languages are being recruited to listen in on phone calls in the West Midlands to try to spot potential terrorists.

Security service MI5 is offering £22,000 a year to "foreign language analysts" who can pick out information and disrupt threats to national security.

The roles will become particularly busy next year during the Olympics with staff asked to work in shifts.

MI5 wants people who speak Arabic, Bengali, Pashto, Punjabi with Pothwari, Somali and Kurdish Sorani. The jobs are also available in Greater Manchester and London.

But applicants have been warned the job is "not glamorous". The security service has declined to comment further on its job offer.

## Intercepted

But the description on its website reads: "Part of our work involves listening to legally intercepted telephone calls. That's where you can play your part - using your language skills to listen for vital clues in what seem like everyday conversations."

"You'll spend your time listening to phone calls made by people under investigation to help identify threats to national security, including terrorism and espionage."

"Some calls won't be relevant but your judgment, language skills and cultural knowledge will help determine which are."

"You'll be working as part of a close-knit team, piecing together intelligence to support ongoing investigations. It's not a glamorous job, but it is important."

Applicants must be born or naturalised British citizens and at least 18.

They are being told that "discretion is vital" and that they must not discuss their applications with anyone other than a partner or close family member.

On Monday, six men were arrested in Birmingham. They were detained on suspicion of the commission, preparation or instigation of an act of terrorism in the UK.

## Chance to show your talent



Getting ready for a talent show for people with learning disabilities, from left, Joy Dugmore from Langstone Society, Neil Davies from Dudley Voices for Choice and Bev Fisher from Hallas Homes

A DUDLEY charity is appealing for performers to take part in a grand talent show later this month.

Dudley's Got Talent, which takes place on October 18 at Parkes Hall Social Club, will showcase singers and performers with learning disabilities from all over the borough.

Tributes to famous acts from Robbie Williams to Kenny Rogers will take to the stage together with aspiring comedians and musicians.

The show has been organised by Dudley Voices for Choice, a group which meets regularly to discuss and speak up for people with learning disabilities. Members also

provide learning disability awareness training for local organisations and the businesses.

Sarah Offley from Dudley Voices for Choice said: "We are really looking forward to our talent show and hope lots of people come and join us, either as performers or to cheer our acts along from the audience."

Parkes Hall Social Club is in Parkes Hall Road and the event, sponsored by Stourbridge and Kingswinford Lions, Hallas Homes and Langstone Society, runs from 10am to 4pm. For tickets or to perform email [dvc@langstonesociety.co.uk](mailto:dvc@langstonesociety.co.uk) or call 07930 636969.

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# What's New @ Learning4Life

## Autumn 2011

ADULT EDUCATION, TRAINING AND LEISURE

The Wordsley School  
Brierley Hill Road, Wordsley,  
Stourbridge, West Midlands. DY8 5SP

ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

### FRENCH

Beginners: Mondays 19.00-20.30. Improvers: Tuesdays 19.00-20.30. Check availability with reception.

### INTRO TO SIGN LANGUAGE

Mon. 31st Oct. 19.00-21.00, 6 wks. £30.60 #

### CREATIVE WRITING

Mon. 14th Nov. 19.00-21.00, 5 wks. £25.50 #

### PLAY THE GUITAR

Beginners: Thurs 3rd Nov. 20.00-21.00, 5 wks. £18.00 #  
Improvers: Tuesdays 19.00-21.00, Intermediates: Mondays 19.00-21.00. Check availability with reception.

### DRAWING FOR BEGINNERS

Mon 28th Nov. 14.00-16.00, 3 wks. £21.60 #

### WATERCOLOUR PAINTING FOR BEGINNERS

Mon 7th Nov. 14.00-16.00, 3 wks. £21.60 #

### PAINTING and DRAWING

Classes suited for all levels take place on Tuesdays 19.00-21.00 Wednesdays 10.00-12.00, Thursdays 10.00-12.30, and Thursdays 13.30-15.30. Check availability with reception.

### JEWELLERY MAKING

Beginners: Tues. 1st Nov. 10.00-12.00, 3 wks £21.60 #

### WIRE WRAPPED JEWELLERY MAKING

Improvers: Tues 22nd Nov. 9.30-12.30, 3 wks £22.95 #

### FACE PAINTING and GLITTER TATTOOS

Mon 31st Oct. 19.00-21.00, 3 wks. £24.60 #

### FOLK ART

Mon 31st Oct. 19.00-21.00. OR Tues 22nd Nov. 13.30-15.30. Both 3 wks. £21.60 #

### CANAL ART

Tues 1st Nov 13.30-15.30 OR Mon 21st Nov. 19.00-21.00. Both 3 wks. £21.60 #

### INTRO TO FLOWER ARRANGING

Mon 31st Oct. 10.00-12.00 OR Thurs 24th Nov. 19.00-21.00. Both 3 Wks. £25.60 Cons. £20.20 and £9

### INTRO TO FLORISTRY

Thurs 3rd Nov. 19.00-21.00 OR Mon. 21st Nov. 10.00-12.00. Both 3 Wks. £25.60 Cons. £20.20 and £9

### SOFT FURNISHING

Fri 11th Nov. 10.00-12.00, 6 wks. £30.60 #

### PATCHWORK FOR BEGINNERS

Tues 8th Nov. 19.00-21.00, 3 wks. £21.60 #

### EMERGENCY FIRST AID

Fri. 4th Nov. 09.00-16.00, 1 day. £36.50

### PAEDIATRIC EMERGENCY FIRST AID

Sat 19th Nov. 09.00-13.00, 1 session. £24.30

### ADULT SWIMMING LESSONS

Check availability with reception. Mondays 19.00-19.45, Improvers and Intermediates Mondays 19.45-20.30, Beginners and Intermediates. Mondays 20.30-21.15, Beginners and Improvers

### PRIVATE SWIMMING LESSONS

In a group of 2 or 1 to 1. Contact the office for further details

### RLSS NATIONAL POOL LIFEGUARD

24th Oct 2011, 13th Feb 2012, 10th Apr 2012, 23rd OR 30th July 2012. All 8.30-17.00, 6 days. £172 plus additional fees £78.75

### RLSS NATIONAL RESCUE TEST for SWIMMING

TEACHERS/COACHES Thurs 29th and Fri 30th Mar. 8.30-16.00, £57.20, add. fees £26.95. 1 day retake subject to previous qualification and training Fri 30th Mar. £36.50, add. fees £26.95

### TAP DANCE

Mon 31st Oct. 19.00-20.00, 6 wks. £21.60 #

### CONTEMPORARY DANCE

Mon 31st Oct. 20.00-21.00, £21.60 #

## COMMUNITY SESSIONS

### ADULT SWIMMING

Mon.	12.40-13.25	£2.60
Thurs.	19.00-20.15	£2.60

### AQUAFIT

Wed.	12.40-13.25	£2.60
Wed.	19.00-20.00	£3.70
Fri.	12.40-13.25	£2.60
Sun.	9.00-10.00	£3.70

### FITNESS SWIMMING for 10-19

Mon.	18.00-18.45	£1.60
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### START YOUR OWN BUSINESS

6 wks. £30.60 # Contact the office for further details

### AN INTRODUCTION TO TRADING ON THE STOCK MARKET

Thurs 24th Nov. 19.00-21.00, 3 wks £21.60 #

### LEGS, BUMS and TUMS

Tuesdays 20.05-21.05. Check availability with reception.

### PILATES

Beginners: Tuesdays 19.00-20.00, Wednesdays 18.00-19.00, Thursdays 18.00-19.00 and Beginners@Oakfield Fridays 10.00-11.00, Improvers Thursdays 19.05-20.05 and 20.10-21.10. Check availability with reception

### YOGA

Wed 2nd Nov. 19.15-20.45, 6 wks. £37.20

### TAE KWON-DO

Thurs 3rd Nov. 20.10-21.10, 6 wks. £21.60 #

### HAIR STYLING AN INTRODUCTION

Tues 1st Nov. 18.00-20.00 OR Wed 2nd Nov. 13.30-15.30. Both 3 wks. £21.60 #

### MAKE UP: JUST LIKE A PROFESSIONAL

Tues 22nd Nov. 18.00-20.00 OR Wed 23rd Nov. 13.30-15.30. Both 3 wks. £21.60 #

**go on** get more out of life online

### ONLINE BASICS

Learn to e-mail, surf the Internet and stay safe on-line Courses cost £10

Fridays 11.30-13.30 5 wks. Starts 14th Oct  
Tues-Fri. 4 days 13.00-15.30 Starts 25th Oct.  
Thursdays 12.30-14.30 5 wks. Starts 3rd Nov.

### COMPUTING for the TERRIFIED

Learn to use a computer from scratch! Fri 25th Nov. 9.15-11.15. 4 wks. £39.60 #

### COMPUTERS: WORD PROCESSING

Fri 14th Oct. 11.30-13.30, 6 wks. £43.20 #

### INTRO TO FAMILY HISTORY

Mon 9th Jan 2012 13.30-15.30 5 wks. £36.00 #

### CONTINUING FAMILY HISTORY

Mon 31st Oct 13.30-15.30 5 wks. £36.00 #

### INTRO. TO DIGITAL IMAGING USING PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS

Tues. 1st Nov. 13.30-15.30, 5 wks. £49.50 #

### CONT. DIGITAL IMAGING USING PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS

Mon 31st Oct. 10.00-12.00, 5 wks. £49.50 #

### BUYING and SELLING ON E-BAY

Thurs 3rd Nov. 19.00-21.00 OR Fri 4th Nov. 9.15-11.15. Both 3 wks. £21.60 #

### CREATE YOUR OWN WEBSITE

Wed 2nd Nov. 10.00-12.00, 7 wks. £50.40 #

### DREAMWEAVER CS3 ESSENTIALS

Mon 31st Oct. 19.00-21.30, 7 wks. £63.00 #

### LITERACY & NUMERACY ADULT CERT. 1 & 2

Following a thorough evaluation we will provide a personalised, relevant course of study to meet your needs. Start at any time and work towards a City & Guilds qualification equivalent to a GCSE. Assessments take place when you're ready.

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Thurs 10.00-12.00. Term dates: Tues 1st Nov- Thurs 15th Dec. 7 wks.  
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**CHARGES:** £5 registration fee for half a term plus £12 certificate fee No reductions! No hidden extras



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### PLAY THE GUITAR

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Mon 31st Oct. 16.45-17.45, Level One. 6 wks. £51.90

Thurs 3rd Nov. 17.45-18.45 Level Three. 6 wks. £26.10



## LEARNING4LIFE SWIM SCHOOL

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Mon 31st Oct to Sun 18th Dec. 7 wks.

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\*All Standards\*

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#### First Steps

An ideal first class for your child. It enables young children from 3 to 4 1/2 years to enjoy water, develop confidence and preliminary skills with the help of buoyancy aids when needed.

#### Pre-Beginner.

Min age 4 1/2 years. Provides familiarisation activities and skills to develop floatation and propulsion without aids up to 2m.

#### Beginner.

Min age 4 1/2 years. Provides skill development to swim 5m on a front stroke and 5m back crawl.

#### Improver.

Improves aquatic skills and stamina to swim 15m on a front stroke and 15m back crawl.

#### Intermediate 1.

Develops confidence in deep water and front crawl breathing action to swim 20meters on a front stroke and 20m back crawl.

#### Intermediate 2.

Helps to build stamina and endurance to swim 50m on a front stroke and 25m on back crawl.

#### Intermediate 3.

Develops competence on all four strokes to swim 50m on a front stroke and 25m on back crawl.

#### Rookie Lifeguard

Learn new skills, have fun and overcome challenges. Min. age 8 years. Must be able to swim 20 m on a front stroke and 20 m on a back stroke.

**Advanced Swimmer.** To further develop swimming skills, speed and stamina.

#### Water Skills.

To develop survival and rescue skills.

#### Life saving.

Min age 10 years. Must be able to swim 20m on a front stroke and 20 m on a back stroke. Develops water safety principles and performance of survival skills towards Lifesaving 1,2 and 3 and Bronze Medallion Awards

**Advanced Lifesaving.** For students who have achieved their Bronze Medallion. Work towards RLSS Award of Merit and Life Support 3 in an environment which supports the development of leadership skills and promotes voluntary activity. This is an ideal class for aspiring young people, not old enough or too inexperienced to become qualified lifeguards or aquatic teachers.

**Tel. 01384 816043.**

**Mon. to Fri. 9.00 - 13.00**

**www.learning4life.co.uk**



# Poignant story of life in WWI

**Journey's End  
The Grand, W-ton**

The detailed set and unnervingly realistic sound effects, which hit you right from curtain opening, along with the crisp dialogue all combine to recreate the atmosphere of being in a British trench during World War One.

Journey's End, based on R.C. Sherriff's own war experiences, follows the lives and pressures of the major characters of Lieutenant Osborne, Private Mason, 2nd Lieutenant Raleigh, Captain Stanhope and 2nd Lt Trotter in 1918 before a major German offensive.

Leader of the bunch Cpt Stanhope, Nick Hendrix, has a reputation for being a great soldier but one on the edge who has learned to cope with the madness of war through constant hard work and even harder drinking.

His world is interrupted by the arrival of 2nd Lt Raleigh someone from his past who strongly reconnects him to his former life in Blighty and who disrupts the bizarre normality Stanhope has built around himself.

The dialogue between the soldiers as they cope with trench life is incisive and smattered with the dark humour you would expect from men always living one bullet or shell away from death.

The cast which includes Tim Chipping, Simon Dutton, Tony Turner, Graham Butler, Nick Hendrix, Christian Patterson, Daniel Hanna, Andy Daniel and Simon Harrison is faultless displaying both the boredom and the horror of that period in a searingly poignant way.

Journey's End runs until Oct 8

**Danny Farragher**

**Legally Blonde,  
New Alexandra, Birmingham**

Omigod it's true, blondes do have more fun and this fantastic show proves it. And, judging by the audience reaction to Legally Blonde, the verdict was – simply terrific.

The fun and enthusiasm of the cast was infectious. Yes the storyline may be a bit cheesy, dippy blonde Elle Woods can handle anything, so when her boyfriend, Warner, dumps her she decides to follow him to Harvard Law School and win him back. With some help from new-found friends Paulette, Emmett, her chihuahua Bruiser, she learns its so much better to be smart and she ends up winning back her ex-boyfriend back but choosing to instead propose to the 'good guy' who helped her through law school.

The international award-winning hit has everything, great characters and the adorable little chihuahua Bruiser who got an aah whenever he appeared on stage – who said you shouldn't work with animals.

This all-singing, all-dancing romantic comedy is about knowing who you are and showing what you've got.

Faye Brookes, at 24, is in only her second major leading role is but is a confident Elle and her scenes alongside the more experienced Claire Sweeney, who plays the scatty hairdresser Paulette are both hilarious and moving.

Legally Blonde runs until October 15.

**Birmingham Royal Ballet - Beauty and the Beast,  
Hippodrome**

The Birmingham Royal Ballet production of Beauty and

the Beast has so much more than superb dancing – amazing costumes, magical scenery and comic touches.

This towering gothic fairytale comes from the creator of BRB's smash-hit Cinderella and tells the story of a cruel prince, cursed to spend the rest of his life living in a castle with the animals he callously hunted, but who finds salvation in the heart of a beautiful girl. Caught stealing a single rose, Belle's desperate father exchanges his life for his youngest daughter's freedom. In his distant castle Beast, stripped of his handsome features and his very humanity, must win her heart, or spend the rest of his life in bitter solitude.

There are many lighter moments, particularly with the two sisters who take on an almost panto-style role (akin to the ugly sisters) and the ridiculous courting dance of potential suitor Monsieur Cochon (Johnathan Payn) was superb. But the real treat was the exquisite dancing by Belle (Nao Sakuma) and The Beast (Iain Mackay).

**Shang Hi by Cirque du Ceil,  
Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton**

This colourful show tells the story of teenage girl Yan Yang and her mysterious journey of discovery.

Starting with film footage, which illustrates the journey from Wolverhampton to China on a globe, the audience are shown scenes of China and the story unfolds of how this young girl is taken from modern-day China to the past – with the power of spirits – to discover the magic realm of the Cirque. All very easy when you know the story but a bit hard to follow on the night, but despite that there was no mistaking the ability of the performers who kept the audience spellbound for almost two hours.

They are taken with her to the bustling metropolis of Shanghai, to see jugglers, dancers, performers and acrobats who help her realise her dream of becoming a circus performer. Some of the positions by the contortionists were beyond belief. All this and dance, martial arts and superb costumes with original music. The traditional Chinese stunts with the aerial silks and "monkey poles" were quite breathtaking.

**Sue Attwater**

**Alan Carr,  
NIA Birmingham.**

When toothy bespectacled comedian Alan Carr introduced his Spexy Beast show at Birmingham on Sunday, on his second night at the cavernous NIA venue as part of his first stand-up tour in four years, he said there would be good bits and bad bits (or words to that effect).

After his two sets, totalling around 90 minutes, I realised this was no false modesty.

Carr's great strength is he comes across as a chatty, exuberant friend with quick wit and a tendency to spice conversation with expletives and risqué comments. Though even he had to work hard to create an atmosphere in the hangar-like venue.

Usually on TV he is sat down, so seeing him pace and, let's be frank, mince around the stage served as a reminder what a fine physical comedian he is. The Northampton comic's conversational style was also a downfall as he flitted from one subject to another – riots, drink, technology, getting old – and sometimes the gear changes crunched. With no overall theme developing there was no movement towards a comic crescendo, so his sets ended disconcertingly abruptly.

When his observational humour about human flaws was spot on – and it often was – he got big laughs but too many of his observations were only smile worthy and his flights of fancy didn't always take off (though I liked the idea of his nana sucking the chocolate off a Crunchie and trying to sell the bar to Cash For Gold).

**Leon Burakowski**

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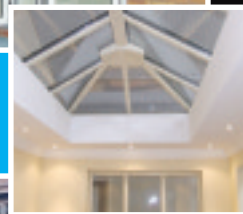
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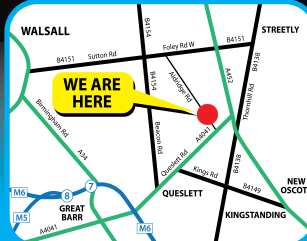
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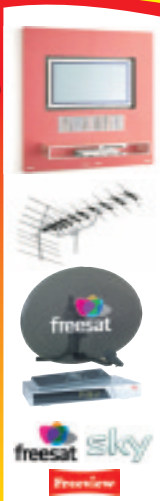
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thechronicle

# How your money helps in a drought

By Sarah Hazelwood

A DUDLEY mum has travelled to Ethiopia to find out how money raised in the Black Country is helping those caught in the country's worst drought for 60 years.

Julia Hood, a volunteer at the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (Cafod), jetted off to East Africa, on September 19, to see how funds were aiding a community on the brink of survival.

Cafod is the Catholic agency supporting overseas development, working with more than 20 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America to fight poverty and injustice.

This year parishes and schools across the Black Country have helped raise almost £15,000 for the East African appeal alongside a staggering £141,000 from the Birmingham Catholic Archdiocese, which Dudley, Walsall and Wolverhampton are all members.

## Encourage

After spending a week with Cafod and its partners visiting various communities overseas Julia, of Richborough Drive, who has worked for the agency for the past 13 years, said the money had so far helped produce larger and deeper water holes, mend a well which had been blocked for 21 years and aid in the clearance of land to encourage cattle grazing.

"To finally be able to see the work that takes place in East Africa and the difference our projects are having on the community was a real privilege," she said.

"I was extremely lucky to be able to go and see the ways donations from the Black Country help those living in such hardship.

"The money we collect is crucial to



Julia Hood with some of the Borana helpers in Ethiopia



Julia with Elema Wario, 60, who is from Borana

helping communities get through this extremely difficult time. They haven't had any rain since last March so it was a real shock to see the effects first hand.

"I am constantly amazed at the generosity shown by people especially at a time where finances are a worry for everybody.

"Although it is always difficult to hear these stories I have brought home with me a real message of hope – that even in difficult times there is still something we can do to improve the

lives of so many disadvantaged and truly wonderful people overseas."

The 48-year-old, mother of two, has done a massive amount to help raise funds over the past decade, inbetween working as a volunteer reading assistant at St Joseph's school which is in Dudley.

Before the trip Julia embarked upon a sponsored walk with parishioners from St Mary of the Angles, in Walsall, in a charity stroll from Aldridge to Lichfield.

She will be returning to the church

in the next few weeks to tell them about her trip and the ways in which their donations are being spent.

With fundraisers throughout the year the next big event for Cafod is the Harvest fast day appeal, this Friday (October 7).

## Collections

A host of schools and parishes take part with special collections and fundraising efforts to help fund the group's projects.

Julia, who travelled more than



A dry watering hole, dug by the community who are hoping for rain this month



Sarite watering hole provides a vital source of water for the region's cattle

500km from the capital Addis Ababa to Yabello in the Borana region of South Ethiopia, said: "We are very lucky to have so many committed supporters as without them our work wouldn't be possible.

"The money raised has given the community hope that they can get through this and they are just praying now that rain will fall this month.

"Livestock numbers are dropping fast but the well, which serves more than 3,000 cattle each day, puts them one step closer to saving their lively

hoods. Some women from neighbouring communities walk for up to eight hours to use the well which shows just how important our help is.

"I would love to go back again to see the changes our money and support is making and again pass on my stories and show the people of the Black Country the huge difference they are making."

● For more information or to donate visit [www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk) or call Julia on 01922 722944.

## Harry Shaw

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### Luxembourg - Turkey & Tinsel Break Grand Hotel de Vianden

Enjoy all the fun of your favourite festive season amongst the unique atmosphere of Luxembourg. Our base - Vianden is watched over by a Mediaeval castle.

The Grand Hotel is family run and features include a lounge, bar and restaurant. 'Turkey and Tinsel' is the theme.

#### Included excursions:

- A day in the town of Vianden with a local guide to introduce you
- Sightseeing tour north along the Our Valley
- Visit to 'Little Switzerland'
- Visit to Luxembourg city

5 Days • 4 Nights: 14 November from £199.95

### Northumberland & Newcastle Christmas Markets

Stay in Northumberland - an area of ancient castles, vast sandy beaches and rolling moorland.

On day 1 we take you to Newcastle. The Christmas market will be in full swing. Afterwards we transfer you to the Windsor Hotel centrally located in Whitley Bay. On day 2 we explore the Northumberland Heritage Coast. We call in at Seahouses and then it is on to Bamburgh. On day 3 we make our way to the thriving Metro Centre.

3 Days • 2 Nights:  
25 November from £99.95

### Inverness, Ullapool & Loch Ness 3\* Nethybridge Hotel

Take the high road with Harry Shaw and stay at Nethybridge with a dramatic backdrop of the Cairngorm Mountains and the Abernethy Forest. The 3\* Nethybridge Hotel has magnificent character and pleasant gardens. There is a bar, lounge and entertainment on some evenings.

#### Included excursions:

- Ullapool & Inverness
- Tour taking us via Spean Bridge to Loch Ness where we have included a boat trip
- Visit to coastal towns of Nairn and Elgin

5 Days • 4 Nights: 24 October from £199.95

### German Christmas Markets

Soak up the unrivalled seasonal spirit and some of Germany's enchanting and appealing riverside towns and villages. We stay for 3 nights in the area. On day 2 we have included an excursion to 2 Rhine or Moselle Christmas markets. On day 3 you can join our optional excursion to Rudesheim and the Rhine Gorge.

4 Days • 3 Nights: 05 & 13 December from £99.95

### Lake Garda Super Saver Hotel Centrale

Escape to beautiful Lake Garda with its mild climate and picturesque mountains. The Centrale Hotel is set in the centre of the charming town of Riva. Here there are a wide selection of shops, bars, restaurants and cafes.

#### Optional excursions:

- Lake Garda circular tour taking in the capital of Lake Garda - Garda and a stop at Malcesine - £9.95 per person
- Verona - £9.95 pp
- Venice - £29.95 per person

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thechronicle

## Council redundancies top 800

More than 800 council workers in the Midlands have been made redundant in recent months, figures show. Employees have left positions through compulsory redundancy or by opting to leave their role through voluntary redundancy.

Union chiefs have warned that the cost-cutting move will hit services. Dudley Council announced plans at the start of the year to shed more than 400 jobs by next April as part of a bid to save £22 million. New figures show

that 460 workers have now left the authority.

Of those, 404 left through voluntary redundancy, while 56 have gone through compulsory redundancy.

Bosses say they have managed to cut the number of people being forced to leave through compulsory redundancy by redeploying 29 workers.

Dudley Union representative Steve Beardsmore said: "It will definitely affect services. We are only in the first year as well, it is going to get

worse. At Dudley we have lost 400 this year, if we lose 400 next year and more the year after it is going to be desperate."

In Wolverhampton between April and August this year 72 workers have gone through voluntary redundancy while a further 38 have left through compulsory redundancy.

At South Staffordshire Council bosses have been trying to save £1.1m by deleting vacant posts, redundancies and flexible working.

## Applications flood in for Tesco jobs

Around 500 applications have been submitted by job hunters vying for 80 new positions at a £27 million Tesco superstore, at Burnt Tree Island on the Sandwell and Dudley border, it has been revealed.

The supermarket is set to open on October 17 and work on the site has now entered its final stage.

It was announced earlier this year that 80 new jobs would be created.

And bosses from the supermarket giant said they had received around 500 applications.

Bosses said not all of the 80 new positions had yet been filled and recruitment was still taking place.

Other posts at the store are expected to be taken by staff from the old Burnt Tree Island store, which closed in January.

The total number of positions at the supermarket, which will be far larger than the previous shop, is expected to be more than 300.

Jonathan Simpson, spokesman for Tesco said: "At the present time we have received around 500 applications from people interested in working at the new store."

## Historic locks are drained

History buffs will get the chance to see the intricate workings of an historic river lock after it was drained for the first time in 20 years.

Maintenance work is taking place at the Diglis Locks, along the River Severn in Worcester. As part of the scheme, the smallest of the two river locks has been drained with water to be removed from the larger one in the coming weeks.

The work is being carried out as part of a £50 million scheme launched by British Waterways to repair canal and river locks around the country.

### Construction

Open days are taking place at the Diglis Locks while they are drained, allowing people to see the craftsmanship and engineering behind their construction.

The days will be held on October 15 and 16 and visitors will be able to walk along the bed of the drained river.

They are the only paired locks on the River Severn and were designed to allow large ship movements up to the former oil depot at Worcester.

The small lock was for the movement of ships up to Stourport. The locks are one of the deepest river locks in the country.



Workers in the drained Diglis Lock in Worcester on the River Severn, which is being cleaned and maintained for the British Waterways winter works and public open day campaign.

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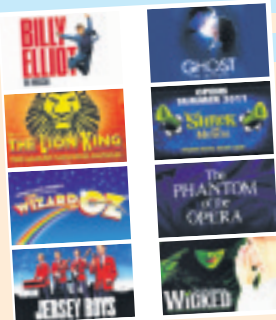


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# Landmark order for metal thief

A prolific metal thief has been banned from going near scrap dealers or derelict buildings in an order thought to be one of the first of its kind in the West Midlands.

David Whyte targeted buildings across the borough during a three-month stealing spree. The 19-year-old was given a three-year criminal anti-social behaviour order – or Crasbo – at Dudley Magistrates Court after admitting the burglary of a restaurant in the town. He was already in custody after being jailed for 14 weeks for raiding Hope Strict Baptist Church in Sedgley of copper piping, chalices and a plaque earlier this year. And he had

previously been given a 12-month community order for ripping brass door fittings from firms in Wolverhampton Street in the town.

Magistrates enforced the order to try to stop Whyte stealing when he gets out of prison. The five-point order stops him from collecting scrap metal, carrying tools in public other than for work or visiting any scrap metal dealers. He is also banned from entering any derelict buildings or building sites.

The order, which was requested by police, was drawn up with the co-operation of Whyte's defence solicitor, Mr Ian Gold, who said Whyte thought the restrictions were "a good idea".

The court heard Whyte, of Downfield Drive, Sedgley, was seen on a roof at the back of the Madni's curry house in New Street at about 9am on July 18, loading pipes, pots and pans into a bag. When arrested he told police he had been given permission to take the scrap – but the owners denied this.

Whyte was also given a four-week prison sentence to run alongside the term he is serving for the church theft in June.

Mr Gold said Whyte, who lives with his mother, was "the simplest of souls" who tried to "make a small amount of money by travelling around taking anything that is not nailed down".

## Auction of vintage fashions

More than 150 items of vintage fashion will go under the hammer as a fashion graduate launches an auction business.

Both men's and women's fashions, shoes and accessories will form part of the sale held by student Claire Robinson and Dudley-based Aston's Auctioneers.

The 25-year-old fashion and retail management graduate struck on the idea for the sale after seeing the boom in vintage clothing stores in recent years. Among the lots on sale will be a yellow 1980s Emanuel Ungaro jacket at around £80 and 1960s Mary Quant kitten heel shoes.

It will be held at The Custard Factory, in Floodgate Street, Digbeth, on November 19. Viewing is from 10am for a 12pm start.

The auction house will be holding a valuation and taster event on October 11 at Bayliss' Hall, in Tower Street, Dudley. People are invited to bring any items they feel could form part of the auction and also meet Claire to talk about the event between 10am and 4pm.

## Famous glass vase is reborn

A Black Country glass-maker has made history by creating a perfect replica of one of the most important pieces of glassware ever created.

Richard Golding has created a blank of the historic Portland Vase at Stourbridge's Ruskin Glass Centre with the help of a specialist team. They had to wait a nervous 12 hours for the pieces to cool in an oven before they knew if their work had been worth it.

The blank was created in front of an audience of glass enthusiasts and the finished article will celebrate 400 years of glassmaking in the town. The replica will now be carved by Terri Colledge at the centre over the next 12 months and will be finished in time to be shown at the International Festival of Glass scheduled to be held next August.

The original Portland Vase dates back to around 25AD and according to the British Museum in London is the most famous cameo-glass vessel from antiquity. In attendance for the making of the replica was John Northwood III, great-grandson of the last person to complete a replica of the Portland Vase in Stourbridge back in 1874.



Ian Dury checks the progress of the Portland Vase copy at The Ruskin Glass Centre

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# Expansion may see end to free parking

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Multi-million pound expansion plans have been unveiled for Dudley's Merry Hill Shopping Centre – and could see the introduction of parking charges in as little as two years.

Bosses at the centre revealed they had started working towards drawing up plans to include new shops, leisure facilities and houses. Centre manager Lucas Ross said parking charges were a formal requirement of expanding the popular indoor shopping mall.

"The expansion might not be immediate but it's something we are currently working towards," he said.

"If all goes well, hopefully it is only a couple of years away. Whether it is done all in one phase or a few smaller phases is hard to say.

"It's a very complicated process – we will need to get plans drawn up, have planning permission approved and get businesses interested in moving in before we could go ahead. A requirement of the expansion is that we need to start charging for car parking," added Mr Ross.

## Shoppers

Centre owners Westfield began working on plans as soon as Dudley Council approved the Brierley Hill Area Action Plan last month, he said. But he could not confirm whether previous plans for charges – which would have seen shoppers paying 50p for an hour, rising to £3.50 for five hours with £1.50 increments for each additional hour – would be revisited.

The Action Plan states the new areas would be built on under-used land surrounding the centre and hopes to create better connections with the High Street as part of the scheme.

According to the plan, around 895,557sq ft of new retail space – including a new "anchor" store – would be created by expanding the centre towards the canal, along with almost 70,000sq ft of office space and 1,350 new homes.

One way this could be done, the report suggests, is by converting current car parks to multi-storey and building flats around it.

Deputy council leader Tim Wright said the council had developed the policy alongside other Black Country councils.

"As set out in the Black Country joint core strategy, a condition of any significant extra retail space is that the owners would need to implement a car parking charging system similar to comparable centres," he said.

## Club unveils new pitch



Back, left to right, club members Evie Penzer and Mike Saxon, Worcestershire County player Richard Jones and Angela Hammonds of Ibstock Cory Environmental Trust, with Daniel Tennant, Louie Richards, club secretary Dave Powell, Luke Stringer and Harvey Rutter

A cricket club near Dudley now has a new all weather pitch. The pitch at Swindon Cricket Club was built using a £20,000 grant from the Ibstock Cory Environmental Trust.

The cricket club launched the new pitch with junior and senior members demonstrating

cricket to guests. Club bosses are trying to attract new members and hope the pitch will encourage people to develop their skills in the winter. Worcestershire County player Richard Jones bowled a few overs to members Paul Wale and Evie Penzer, aged 15.

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## Get the cool DJ look with these candy-coloured cans

**R**ADIOPAQ Duo headphones offer a stylish set of cans for £19.99, easily as fashionable looking as phones more than twice the price thanks to a metal-look finish and the plush feel of the leather-look cushions.

The plastic phones cover your ears and also have a padded adjustable headband. Each cup is able to be tilted, swivelled and folded flat. That gives them a cool DJ look and, as with most DJ headphones, sound-wise they're a little heavy on the bass. A gold-plated 3.5mm connector provides optimal sound transfer from your source.

But this is a budget set of headphones, so provided you are not expecting super quality sound and are happy with just a decent, good-looking pair of cans, then these will do nicely. They also come in a nice range of four vibrant colours, high gloss copper, candy green, candy purple and metallic silver, plus good old fashioned black.

The Duo are available in store at Carphone Warehouse, ASDA, Argos, WHSmith and online at the [www.radiopaqproducts.com](http://www.radiopaqproducts.com) website. **LB**



Expensive look but a budget price for the Radiopaq Duo headphones available for £19.99

## Device to combat pain



Painfree – an electromagnetic device for combat pain

**PAINFREE** is a rechargeable, totally portable gadget to deal with aches and pains.

Unlike a Tens machine which works by electrical nerve stimulation, this lightweight and sleek oval device uses electromagnetic technology which makers Snowden say is clinically-proven. Apparently this drug-free pain solution works by pulsing electromagnetic fields.

I was a little sceptical but it did have an instant impact on my back pain, reducing discomfort when placed near the area that hurt. However, the pain quickly returned after the device was moved away.

Used for longer periods the therapeutic effect works by releasing endorphins and serotonin to help the problem area, say Snowden.

### Lanyard

They claim it works as long as it is within 12 inches of the body, so some users choose to wear in on a lanyard around their neck, and Snowden say it can give relief in more than one area at once. It has high and low settings.

I did not use the device for long enough to give an opinion on this but using it for short periods I could feel some relief, though the device was certainly not as effective for me as prescribed painkillers. However, those determined to take a drug-free approach to fighting pain and who are prepared to pay £85.95 for the Painfree device, can find out more at [www.snowdenhealthcare.com](http://www.snowdenhealthcare.com) or by calling 08700 771 772. **LB**

## Enjoy a good read but without turning a page

**T**HE RISE of the MP3 player, in-car entertainment and fast downloads has boosted sales of audiobooks, which are perfect for commuters or long holiday drives, or to have on whilst relaxing.

One of the best sites is AudioGO which, being the former BBC audiobook site, has a wealth of material to draw upon, vintage and recent radio plays and series plus lots of specially created titles. Some of the recordings are available on CD, some as downloads and some in both formats.

For instant gratification, the site's download service is quick and easy to use and the download favourites include classics by Jane Austen, Agatha Christie whodunnits and thrillers by such as John Grisham.

My personal favourites among the top downloads include Martin Jarvis' brilliant readings of Richmal Crompton's gently hilarious *Just William* stories; the 1968 full cast dramatisation of JRR Tolkien's *The Hobbit*; and some excellent versions of *The Wind in the Willows*. The tales of Ratty, Mole, Toad and co are on a two-CD or download version of the two hour and 20 minute dramatisation narrated by Alan Bennett. An indication of the breadth of choice available is that you could instead opt for the unabridged six hour reading of Kenneth Grahame's children's classic by Michael Hordern, or the two and a half hour abridged version read by Bernard Cribbins, that was aired for the first time only last year. All the versions are excellent.

Radio comedy is a rich vein mined by AudioGO. It begins with vintage humour from such as *The Goons*, the anarchic and seminal comedy created by Spike Milligan with Peter Sellers, Harry Secombe and Michael Bentine. Further insights into the mind of Milligan can be drawn from the 'audio portrait' *Remembering Spike Milligan*. And comedy gets right up-to-date with comedians such as ranting Welsh comic Rhod Gilbert with his *Bulging Barrel of Laughs* featuring Greg Davies and such guests as Milton Jones and Shappi Khorsandi.

The comedy panel game reigns supreme. There are several collections

of *I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue*, including those featuring the late chairman, master of innuendo Humphrey Lyttelton, and getting up-to-date on ISHAC 13 with new chairman Jack Dee. Warning, at some point Jeremy Hardy may sing. There are also round-ups of *Just A Minute*, hosted by Nicholas Parsons. This challenge to talk on a topic wittily without repetition, hesitation or deviation reached its 60th series this year. It is still the place where Paul Merton is at his most creative with his surreal humour.

The audiobook is also a good medium to have your brain stretched a little, particularly by Stephen Fry on his celebration of the joy of text, *Fry's English Delight*, which manages to be both funny and educational about the use of the English language. Marcus Du Sautoy, who has recently been teaching us on TV to decode the language of numbers in *The Code*, first broached the subject in his masterful ten part Radio 4 series *A Brief History of Mathematics*, which he wrote and presents. It is a lot more interesting than perhaps it sounds.

### History

Several significant histories are included in AudioGO's arsenal. The best of these include *A History of the World in 100 Objects*, created with The British Museum. Listen to this before a trip to the great museum in London's Bloomsbury and it will bring many of the exhibits to life. Written and presented by Neil MacGregor, this landmark series has been turned into a 25-CD boxed set lasting for 20 hours and includes PDF images of the featured objects on the discs, plus an illustrated booklet. Also out now are both parts of Martin Sixsmith's recent rollercoaster ride through Russian history, *Russia: The Wild East*, and Nick Robinson's political study *The Prime Ministers*.

*Sherlock Holmes* is well-represented with Conan Doyle's Great Detective featuring in around 100 recordings, with such as Clive Merrison and Carlton Hobbs putting on the deerstalker hat and cape. There are new Holmes stories from John Taylor, read by the modern-day Holmes, Benedict Cumberbatch.

All the *Shakespeare* plays are available, including *As You Like It* with Helena



Bonham-Carter as Rosalind and David Morrissey as Orlando, and Lenny Henry's dramatic transformation as Othello.




Those inspired by the final *Harry Potter* movie to start the saga all over again can do so with Stephen Fry's unabridged readings of all seven of JK Rowling's books about the boy wizard. Prices range from around £20 to £60 as each tome gets lengthier and occupies more CDs.

There is one all-conquering character championed by AudioGO, that's *Doctor Who*. The *Timelord* features in dozens of recordings, including new adventures featuring the fourth Doctor Tom Baker, or journey through time and space with recent Doctors David Tennant and Matt Smith in stories read by Smith, David Troughton, Nicholas Briggs, 'Doctor's Daughter' Georgia Moffatt or, less enjoyably, by Claire Corbett who plays current Doctor's assistant Amy. One of the recent *Who* releases, *The Coming of the Terraphiles*, is an epic written by veteran science fiction author Michael Moorcock involving space pirates and an intergalactic Olympics-like tournament based on ancient Earth sports which, of course, the 11th Doctor has to enter. It is read by Clive Mantle and lasts a whopping ten hours and, 50 minutes, plenty of time to get to Cornwall and back or if you've got a Tardis, from one side of the universe to the other.

Many of the titles are available from the website at bargain prices. To find out more about what's on offer at AudiGO go to [www.bbcaudiogo.co.uk](http://www.bbcaudiogo.co.uk).

Leon Burakowski

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# Television's lead ladies on the magic of Merlin



Angel Coulby as Gwen in the hit TV series Merlin



Katie McGrath at the launch of The Dragon Tower



Katie McGrath as the dark sorceress Morgana

POPULAR fantasy drama Merlin, which has returned to Saturday night television screens for its fourth series, has made stars of its two leading ladies, Katie McGrath and Angel Coulby.

They represent good and evil in the action-packed retelling of Arthurian legend, with McGrath as the dark sorceress Morgana and Coulby as Gwen, the future Queen Guinevere. During a break from filming in Wales and at a French castle, both actresses visited Warwick Castle to help launch The Dragon Tower, the castle's new attraction for 2011 in which fans of the TV show can meet the dragon from Merlin, which is voiced in the series by John Hurt.

And while they enjoy the robes and drama of Merlin, a worldwide TV hit made by Shine for the BBC, they both revealed they hoped their high profile will win them roles in American TV and film.

"I would really love to do something set in modern times," said raven-haired Irish

actress Katie McGrath, who is aged 28. "I wish my next role could involve me wearing jeans, driving cars and lots of big explosions."

"I would like to go to America," added 31-year-old Londoner Angel Coulby. "But I would also love to work in British theatre, such as at the Royal Court or the Almeida."

Both are fervent supporters of their characters. Katie says Morgana was not born bad but pushed towards the dark side by the prejudices of others, not least King Uther Pendragon, Arthur's father, played by Anthony Head.

On Gwen/Guinevere, 31-year-old Angel said: "I like that she is going on this journey."

"She had very humble beginnings as a serving girl and goes on to become a queen. She is a people's person who fights for the underdogs. I like to think that if she was in a modern setting she would be a human rights lawyer, or something like that."

"I like how she has grown in strength and how she nurtures Arthur's good heart and brings that good quality out of him."

Angel wanted to be an actress from child-

hood and attended drama school in Edinburgh, getting her big break on TV in Johnny Vaughan's sitcom 'Orrible.

Katie took a more unusual route. After graduating in history from Dublin's Trinity College, she aimed for a career in fashion journalism and after a magazine job became a wardrobe assistant on the set of The Tudors. After being told by friends and colleagues that she should try acting, she finally won a role in front of camera on the very same show.

## Vengeful

There are few actresses who look better in medieval garb and her minor role helped win the County Wicklow woman the more substantial role of wronged and vengeful Morgana in Merlin.

Not having had formal acting training makes Katie nervous of appearing in theatre - "there are no second and third takes on stage" - but maybe a Chekhov drama would tempt her one day because she has a passion for Russian literature, especially Tolstoy.

## What's on at the region's big theatres

ZOO-NATION presents a modern musical comedy with **Some Like It Hot**, a blend of dance with the theme of Hollywood cross-dressing comedy classic **Some Like It Hot**, at Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday to the following Saturday.

Meanwhile, pink and perky American musical **Legally Blonde**, introducing Faye Brookes as not-so-dumb blonde Elle Wood with Claire Sweeney as her hairdresser pal Paulette, continues at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre until October 15.

South Staffs Musical Theatre Company stages Broadway classic **Guys and Dolls** at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday to the following Saturday.

Tonight (Thursday) and tomorrow night, Ace presents powerful contemporary dance piece **Ice** at Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre.

At the same venue on Tuesday, Rumpus Theatre presents a spooky tale by Charles Dickens, **The Haunted Bride**, and on Wednesday, Two Gents stages **Kupenga Kwa Hamlet**, an African take on the Shakespeare classic with the action moved from Scotland to Zimbabwe.

## Pierces concert not likely to be forgotten



The Pierces play in Birmingham on October 12

AMERICAN sisters The Pierces, who recently supported Coldplay at the iTunes Festival, bring their west coast sunshine sound to Birmingham venue The Glee Club on Wednesday, October 12. The Alabama-born, New York-based siblings have a new single out, **It Will Not Be Forgotten**, following their radio favourites **Glorious** and **You'll Be Mine** from their **You & I** album, produced by Coldplay's Guy Berryman.

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	ADULT	OAP	CHILD
Saturday 8th October WELLSBOURNE MARKET & STRATFORD	\$16.00	\$15.00	\$12.00
Monday 10th October BAKEWELL MARKET & BUXTON	\$18.00	\$16.00	\$14.00
Monday 17th October INGLEWOOD TORQUAY TURKEY & TINSEL	5 Days	Only	\$209
Includes excursions, entertainment, half board with all the trimmings. Close to sea front. Single supp. \$40	\$35.00	\$31.00	\$25.00
Saturday 22nd October BLACKPOOL Rtn Monday, Wednesday, Saturday	\$18.00	\$16.00	\$13.00
Saturday 22nd October BLACKPOOL Illuminations Rtn 8.00 pm	\$19.00	\$17.00	\$14.00
Monday 24th October BLACKPOOL tour of lights at dusk	\$35.00	\$31.00	\$25.00
Monday 24th October BLACKPOOL Rtn Wednesday, Saturday	\$19.00	\$17.00	\$14.00
Wednesday 26th October BLACKPOOL tour of the lights at dusk	\$18.00	\$16.00	\$13.00
Saturday 29th October BLACKPOOL return 8.00 pm	\$18.00	\$16.00	\$13.00
Friday 4th November-7th November PAIGNTON HOTEL BONAIR TURKEY & TINSEL with excursions	Inc. Admission	\$32.50	
Sunday 6th November DISNEY ON ICE @ NIA	One Price	\$75.00	
Saturday 12th November Mystery Weekend?????	\$22.00	\$20.00	\$16.00
Monday 14th November Western Carnival returning approx 10.30pm	\$18.00	\$16.00	\$13.00
Saturday 3rd December Worcester Christmas Market & Festivities	\$30.00	\$28.00	\$26.00
Sunday 11th December INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TATTOO @ NIA			

LOCAL PICK UP POINTS

<b>REEL</b> Quinton			
Reel Cinema Quinton Now Offer Films in 3D			
FRIDAY 7th OCTOBER TO THURSDAY 13th OCTOBER			
JOHNNY ENGLISH REBORN (PG) FLS	1820	1820	2030
Friday, Monday to Thursday	1320	1550	1820
Saturday and Sunday	1320	1550	1820
LION KING - 3D (U) FLS	1840	1840	1840
Friday, Monday to Thursday	1100	1300	1455
Saturday and Sunday	1100	1300	1455
SHARK NIGHT 3D (15) FLS	2040	2040	2040
All Week	2040	2040	2040
THE INBETWEENS (15)	1800	1800	1800
Friday, Monday and Tuesday	1355	1800	1800
Saturday and Sunday	1355	1800	1800
THE DEBT (15) FLS	1520	2000	2000
Friday, Monday and Tuesday	1520	2000	2000
Saturday and Sunday	1520	2000	2000
MR POPPERS PENGUINS (PG)	1130	1130	1130
Friday, Monday to Thursday	1130	1130	1130
Saturday and Sunday	1130	1130	1130
KIDS CLUB - SATURDAY AND SUNDAY	1105	1105	1105
SMURFS (U)	1105	1105	1105
CARS 2 (U)	1105	1105	1105
MR POPPERS PENGUINS (PG)	1130	1130	1130
Friday, Monday to Thursday	1130	1130	1130
Saturday and Sunday	1130	1130	1130
FLS - FREE LIST SUSPENDED (NO COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS)			
PROGRAMME SUBJECT TO CHANGE			
REEL MONDAY & WEDNESDAY - £3.10, 3D FILMS £4.20			

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## CASUALTY

BBC1, 9.40pm

It's hard to see why doctors and nurses are perceived as angels. But not many of us believe they actually are. If only Maya knew that. Maya (Anabel Engelson - Coring Of Age), bludgeoned while on a bridge and falls into a car below. The vehicle is being driven by poor Charlie (Derek Thompson). Maya reveals that she sees angels and considers Charlie their instrument on Earth. Zoe (Sunetra Sarker) takes the case, but must act quickly when Maya bludgeoned once again. Elsewhere, worried recruit Scarlett (Madeleine Mantock) endures a hellish shift. Fortunately, she gets the chance to prove that she has what it takes to save a life.

**9.00 Breakfast** 9.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. **9.40 Nigel Slater's Simple Cooking** (F) **10.00 BBC News** Regional News; Weather. **10.10 Football Focus** 10.00 Formula 1: The Japanese Grand Prix. **10.10 Question of Sport** (F) **10.30 Dark Side of the Moon** 10.00 Film: Rubber. (1987) Children's comedy remake, starring Robin Williams. **10.30 BBC News** Regional News; Weather. **10.30 Celebrity MasterChef**.

**9.50 Saturday Come Dine With Me**. The couples face the public vote for the first time.

**10.00 The Mole**. Part two of two. Arthur prepares to make the ultimate sacrifice.

**10.10 The National Lottery: Secret Fortune**. Quiz show, presented by Nick Knowles. Last in the series.

**10.20 Community**. Scarlett doubts her abilities as a nurse.

**10.30 BBC News/Weather**. **10.30 Outnumbered**. Another guest arrives to stay with the family. Last in the series. (F)

**10.40 Anti-Raid at 11.00**. With John Prescott, Russell Kane and Edith Bowman. (F) National Lottery Update.

**10.50 The Football League Show**. Highlights of today's games in League One and League Two.

**11.00 Film: Highlander: The Source**. (2007) Fantasy, starring Adrian Paul. **11.00 Weatherwise**. **11.00 BBC News**.

**11.10 A History of Ancient Britain**. The origins of Britain and its people. (F)

**11.20 A Tribute to David Cook**. Profile of the late writer, producer and director.

**11.30 The 100th Commemorative**. The centenary of the end of WW1.

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**12.00 Later with Jools Holland** (F) **12.00 Film: Curious**. (1988) Black comedy, starring William Baldwin.

**9.00 CBeebies** 9.00 CBBC. **10.00 The Sky at Night** (F) **10.30 Film: The Gay Divorcee**. (1934) Musical comedy, starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. **10.00 Film: The Importance of Being Earnest**. (1952) Comedy, starring Michael Redgrave. **10.30 The Great British Bake Off**. Maderlase. (F) **10.40 Escape to the Country** (F) **10.50 Flog It** (F)

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**9.00 Live Rugby: World Cup**. The second quarterfinal (kick-off 8.30am). **11.10 ITV News**; Weather. **11.30 Coronation Street**. **11.40 The X Factor**. **12.00 Britain Does the Funniest Things**. (F) **12.00 Rugby World Cup Highlights**. **12.00 Regional Programming**. **12.10 ITV News**; Weather. **12.30 New You're Been Framed**.

**9.00 All Star Family Fortunes**. Peter Andre and Kate Thornton take part.

**10.00 Harry Hill's TV Repair**. New series. Harry Hill looks with his regular review of the week's small-screen highlights, providing soap spoofs, reality show critiques and the odd light or two.

**10.30 The X Factor**. The first of the live studio rounds, which see the final 16 acts perform in a bid to win viewers' votes and the approval of the judges. Presented by Dermot O'Leary. The results can be seen tomorrow at 8pm.

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**9.30 Come Dine with Me**. Paula Skelton hosts the final evening in Bury. (F)

**10.00 Channel 4 News**. Members of the public reflect on religious issues.

**9.00 Mitchell** 9.00 The Gadget Show (F) **9.10 New Highland Emergency** (F) **9.20 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **9.30 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **9.40 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **9.50 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **10.00 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **10.10 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **10.20 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **10.30 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **10.40 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **10.50 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **11.00 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **11.10 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **11.20 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **11.30 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **11.40 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **11.50 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **12.00 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **12.10 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **12.20 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **12.30 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **12.40 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **12.50 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **13.00 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **13.10 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **13.20 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **13.30 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **13.40 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **13.50 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **14.00 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **14.10 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **14.20 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **14.30 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **14.40 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **14.50 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **15.00 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **15.10 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **15.20 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **15.30 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **15.40 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **15.50 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **16.00 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **16.10 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **16.20 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **16.30 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **16.40 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **16.50 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **17.00 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **17.10 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **17.20 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **17.30 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **17.40 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **17.50 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **18.00 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **18.10 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **18.20 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **18.30 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **18.40 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **18.50 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **19.00 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **19.10 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **19.20 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **19.30 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **19.40 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **19.50 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **20.00 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **20.10 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **20.20 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **20.30 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **20.40 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **20.50 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **21.00 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **21.10 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **21.20 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **21.30 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **21.40 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **21.50 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **22.00 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **22.10 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **22.20 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **22.30 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **22.40 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **22.50 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **23.00 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **23.10 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **23.20 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **23.30 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **23.40 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **23.50 Big Brother: The Eviction** (F) **24.00 Big**







## Fridav

Phonetic transcription of the following words:  
Doctor. /dɒktə/

Doctor.  $\{P_i\}$

House Doctor. (R)

HouseBuckin. (P) 5:5House Doctor. (P)

545House Doctor. (P)

[expressandstar.com/entertainment](http://expressandstar.com/entertainment)



## Brain Gym

No.137

## SEVEN GREAT GAMES IN ONE!

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## Circlegram

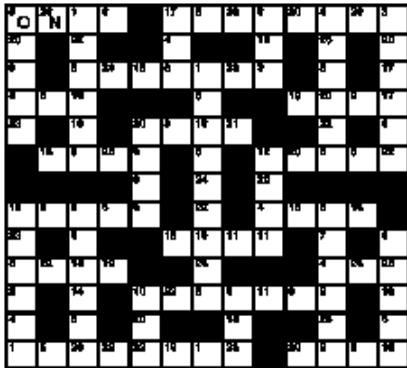
Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION: The letter represented by the question mark is 'A'. The words are: LOHAS, VIOLET, and TONIC.

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1 14  
2 15  
3 16  
4 17  
5 18  
6 19  
7 20  
8 21  
9 22  
10 23  
11 24  
12 25  
13 26  
N

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

R Z S F Y C D U P L T K H  
Q J B O M X A E N G V W I

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Seven great games in one!

CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS

QUICK CROSSWORDS

CODWORD SUDOKU

WORD PUZZLER

WORD SEARCH

NUMBER CRUNCH

SEARCH: DAILY EXPRESS PUZZLES On the iPhone, iPad Touch &amp; iPad

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

## Cryptic Clues:

## Across

- Clean down (5)
- Naming a place. In Invested commas? (7)
- The attendant's not responsible for it (7)
- I shut up about the demand (5)
- Totter (10) (4)
- Spares men (8)
- Org. or part of one (4)
- Slipping action used by fishermen (4)
- Mainly a dancer (8)
- Someone engaged in some shady business (4)
- In dressed on a name (5)
- Reduce the charge (7)
- Give one the right to call (7)
- Only about five to do this puzzle? (5)

## Down

- Acts spitefully, but courts disaster (5,4,4)
- Happen to come later (5)
- Women in retreat (4)
- After a quick start it's simple to be unsettled (6)
- One way to obtain goods without paying (2,4)
- Fancy one taking a drink in the Middle East (7)
- You'll be lucky to win one of them (5,2,6)
- Word that might be mis-spoken, though the easiest (8)
- It's wrong to take charge in to discuss (7)
- Red Indian dancer (8)
- Turn out a bad scholar? (5)
- The French ship is smaller (4)

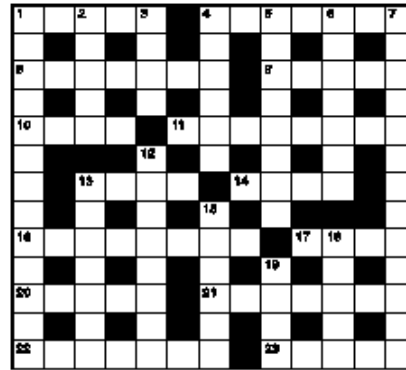
## Quick Clues:

## Across

- Trail (5)
- Long needed animal (7)
- Vicious (7)
- Contest (5)
- Always (4)
- Eligible (4)
- Expensive (4)
- Speed (4)
- Recovering (18)
- Scored point (4)
- Orate (5)
- Marvel (7)
- Saman (7)
- Seign (5)

## Down

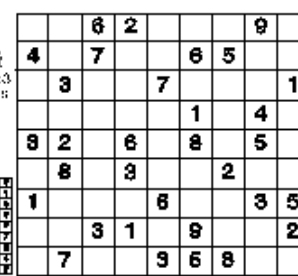
- Cirous performer (7,6)
- Astonish (5)
- Monarch (4)
- Convent (6)
- Sane (5)
- Amusement (13)
- Amek language (8)
- Unkind (7)
- Previous (5)
- Severage (5)
- Cupid (4)



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION: 1 Across: 1. Clean down (5) 2. Naming a place. In Invested commas? (7) 3. The attendant's not responsible for it (7) 4. I shut up about the demand (5) 5. Totter (10) (4) 6. Spares men (8) 7. Org. or part of one (4) 8. Slipping action used by fishermen (4) 9. Mainly a dancer (8) 10. Someone engaged in some shady business (4) 11. In dressed on a name (5) 12. Reduce the charge (7) 13. Give one the right to call (7) 14. Only about five to do this puzzle? (5) 15. Acts spitefully, but courts disaster (5,4,4) 16. Happen to come later (5) 17. Women in retreat (4) 18. After a quick start it's simple to be unsettled (6) 19. One way to obtain goods without paying (2,4) 20. Fancy one taking a drink in the Middle East (7) 21. You'll be lucky to win one of them (5,2,6) 22. Word that might be mis-spoken, though the easiest (8) 23. It's wrong to take charge in to discuss (7) 24. Red Indian dancer (8) 25. Turn out a bad scholar? (5) 26. The French ship is smaller (4)

## Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION: 1 Across: 1. Trail (5) 2. Long needed animal (7) 3. Vicious (7) 4. Contest (5) 5. Always (4) 6. Eligible (4) 7. Expensive (4) 8. Speed (4) 9. Recovering (18) 10. Scored point (4) 11. Orate (5) 12. Marvel (7) 13. Saman (7) 14. Seign (5)

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CODWORD SUDOKU

WORD PUZZLER

WORD SEARCH

NUMBER CRUNCH

SEARCH: DAILY EXPRESS PUZZLES

On the iPhone, iPad Touch &amp; iPad

## What's on at THE VENUE?

Midweek offer entertainment only Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday  
10% off when booked before 31/10/11 quote ChronOctober

## Live Entertainment Nights

Enjoy a full night of entertainment and a four course Gala Dinner

Thursday 1st Dec	Motown & Soul	£27.95 per person
Friday 2nd Dec	X Factor Keri Arrindell, 'Diana Ross' & Supremes	£31.00 per person
Sunday 4th Dec	UB40 Johnny 2 Bad	£27.95 per person
Friday 9th Dec	UB40 Johnny 2 Bad	£32.00 per person
Friday 16th Dec	Abba Tribute	£31.00 per person
Saturday 17th Dec	Robbie Williams Tribute - Ollie Hughes	£31.00 per person
Sunday 18th Dec	Soul and Motown Night	£25.95 per person
Friday 23rd Dec	Motown and Soul	£31.00 per person
Saturday 24th Dec	Motown and Soul	£31.00 per person

Package includes:  
Programme:

Dress code:

Smart casual or evening wear

## Disco Nights

Whether you like your music cool or cheesy...

it's out there waiting for you at a pop and disco night at The Venue.

Re-live some classics from the past eras with live entertainment from our Resident DJ.

Saturday 3rd Dec	70's & 80's	Thursday 8th Dec	Big Cheesy Night Out
Saturday 10th Dec	80's & 90's	Sunday 11th Dec	70's & 80's
Thursday 15th Dec	60's & 70's	Thursday 22nd Dec	70's & 80's

Package Includes:

Programme:

Dress Code:

Smart Casual or Evening Wear

## Bollywood Nights

Wednesday 7th December East Meets West - Western Decoration, Eastern Food, 3 Course Meal, Kids Entertainment, DJ

Wednesday 14th December Bhanga & R'n'B Night - Live Bhanga Dancers, 3 Course Meal, Kids Entertainment, DJ

Wednesday 21st December Bollywood Night - Bollywood Dancers, 3 Course Meal, Kids Entertainment, DJ

Adults £22.95, Children (under 10s only) £11.50, Under 3s Free of Charge

Starters: Fish Pakora, Chilli Paneer, Seekh Kebab, Paneer Tikka, Samosa Chutneys, Green Salad, Chana Chai, Spring Roll

Mains: Lamb Rogan Josh, Mutter Paneer, Bombay Potato, Dal Tadka, Naan, Jeera Rice

Desserts: Gulab Jamun, Ice Cream

Christmas Bookings  
Now Being Taken

Four Course Gala Dinners with Live Entertainment  
or Disco Nights with our Resident DJ

For more information please call our Box Office on  
01384 453101

Celebrate any occasion with our regular tribute night and themed disco evening

Saturday 15th Oct 2011	90s Disco Package deal £17.95 to include Venue Cuisine buffet beforehand	£5.00 adv / £7.00 door
Friday 28th October 2011	Ska Tribute Night with The 2tonics Act Package to include Venue Cuisine buffet £19.95 per person	£7.00 adv / £9.00 door
Saturday 5th Nov 2011	UB40 Tribute with Labour of Love act Package to include Venue Cuisine buffet £18.95 per person	£6.00 adv / £8.00 door
Friday 18th Nov 2011	Curry & Comedy Night with Giggetty, Tommy Mundon & Aynuk Tickets to include curry and comedy act £14.95 per person	£8.00 adv / £10.00 door
Friday 25th Nov 2011	Beatles Tribute Night with Abbey Road act Package to include Venue Cuisine buffet £20.95 per person	£8.00 adv / £10.00 door
Saturday 12th Nov 2011	Boogie Nights - 70s & 80s Package deal £17.95 to include Venue Cuisine buffet beforehand	£5.00 adv / £7.00 door



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# Home of Property

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The top property guide for Stourbridge, Halesowen, Dudley and Kidderminster

## Heated pool and countryside views

A superb four-bedroom family home set in around 1.65 acres at Kidderminster's premier residential address is being sold, with a price tag of £745,000.

The property – 28 Whitehill Road – has breathtaking views over countryside, a heated swimming pool, landscaped gardens and woodland, four reception rooms, rear conservatory, breakfast kitchen and utility, splendid master bedroom, two bathrooms, large attic new, double garage and is newly double glazed throughout.

Whitehill Road is a highly sought after private road in leafy surroundings on the western outskirts of Kidderminster and renowned as the premier residential address in the district.

Standing in beautifully landscaped gardens which merge into woodland and also enjoy far reaching views towards Trimley, this most attractive 1930s built property lies discreetly set back from the road behind an enticing driveway approach with central island and parking for numerous cars. There are superb elevated views to the rear over countryside, with sweeping lawns to well stocked beds and borders.

The interior extends to around 4,000 sq ft of space arranged principally over two floors, plus a sizeable second floor attic room offering potential to create a fifth bedroom, games room or office.

The four bedrooms are all of excellent proportions, the largest two both benefiting from



Number 28 Whitehill Road, Kidderminster, is a detached property, available for £745,000

picture windows capturing the magnificent views to the rear, while the master bedroom features a generous en-suite bathroom.

The extensive ground floor accommodation includes an impressive reception hall with feature staircase and guest cloakroom, while there are four separate reception rooms including study, lounge, sitting room and dining room.

The lounge leads on to rear conservatory, which provides a fine vantage point looking over gardens and terrace – including a heated swimming pool. Also on the ground floor is the breakfast kitchen with large walk-in pantry, utility room, swimming pool changing room and WC.

Call Allan Morris & Jones on 01562 747755 for further details.

## House on market for around £139,950

With an asking price of £139,950, this well-presented three-bedroom semi-detached house in Marshall Road, Oldbury, provides excellent family-sized accommodation.

With ample off-road parking, generously sized bedrooms, double glazing and central heating where specified and an extensive rear garden, viewing is recommended.

Approached via a print concrete driveway with space for several vehicles, steps lead up to a stained and leaded double glazed upvc door which opens to the entrance hallway with stairs to the first floor.

The lounge, 14ft 11in by 12ft 1in features a marble effect fireplace with inset coal effect living flame gas fire, while the breakfast kitchen – measuring 14ft 7in by 8ft 11in, has a wall mounted Canon gas fire, delightful range of matching wall and base units with contrasting work surfaces over, inset stainless steel one and a half bowl sink and drainer unit with mixer tap, integral Stoves oven with integrated four ring AEG gas hob, complimentary tiling, space for fridge freezer, plumbing for washing machine, tiled floor and space for table and chairs.

There is a rear vestibule with door leading to downstairs cloakroom with low-level flush WC and wall mounted wash hand basin, while on the first floor is a well



The semi-detached in Marshall Road is well-presented and has a large rear garden too

appointed bathroom with white suite comprising low level flush WC, pedestal wash hand basin and panelled bath with mains shower over and glass shower screen.

There are also three bedrooms, measuring 13ft 2in by 8ft 11in, 10ft 1in by 10ft 10in and 8ft 1in by 7ft 1in.

The extensive rear garden has a gravelled area with garden shed, raised slatted patio area with mature shrubs and trees and further area ready to be laid to lawn. Timber fencing surrounds the garden with a gate for access to the front.

Contact estate agent Robert Oulsnam & Company on 0121 429 9986 for further details or to arrange a viewing.

## Scriven & Co.

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team  
www.teamprop.co.uk

SALES & LETTINGS. Applicants waiting for properties in Quinton, Oldbury, Rowley Regis, Oakham, Halesowen and Cradley Heath

HALESOWEN		OLDBURY Tivdale		HALESOWEN		HALESOWEN	
	<b>Victoria Avenue</b> * Exceptional detached house * Four bedrooms (master ensuite) * Superb fitted kitchen * Through living room * Dining room * Bathroom with spa bath * Shower room * Cloakroom		<b>Oakham Road</b> * Super family detached * Four beds (master ensuite) * Lounge * Dining * Breakfast kitchen * Utility * Cloakroom * Views to rear		<b>Gower Road</b> * Spacious extended semi * Three bedrooms * Lounge * Dining * Extended breakfast kitchen * Utility/WC * Delightful garden		<b>Gower Road</b> * Spacious extended semi detached house * Kitchen/breakfast room * Three bedrooms * side garage with shower * good sized rear garden
<b>Offers in the region of £357,500</b>		<b>Offers in the region of £315,000</b>		<b>Offers in the region of £249,950</b>		<b>Offers in the region of £224,950</b>	
DUDLEY WOOD		ROWLEY REGIS		OLDBURY		CRADLEY HEATH Old Hill	
	<b>Paint Cup Row</b> * Improved black country cottage * full of character * spacious re-fitted kitchen * three bedrooms * re-fitted bathroom * good sized garden * private driveway parking		<b>Waterfall Lane</b> * Extended detached house * Three bedrooms * Kitchen * Dining * Lounge with feature fireplace * Rear garden * Off road parking		<b>Links Crescent</b> * Mid terrace house * through lounge * kitchen and utility * three bedrooms * low maintenance garden * car port		<b>15 Rough Hill Drive</b> * Detached family residence * 3 Bedrooms * Kitchen with appliances * Living & dining room * Family bathroom * Garage & gardens * GCH & DG windows
<b>Offers in the region of £199,950</b>		<b>Offers in the region of £175,000</b>		<b>Offers in excess of £100,000</b>		<b>Monthly rent of £695</b>	
WEST BROMWICH		HALESOWEN		STOURBRIDGE		ROWLEY REGIS	
	<b>66 Margaret Street</b> * End-terraced house * 2 double bedrooms * 2 reception rooms (with gas fires) * New carpets * Gas central heating * Great location & affordable rent		<b>Leasowe's Court 16 Red Leasowe's Road</b> * Open plan lounge/kitchen * Electric fire and surround, cooker and fridge * Double bedroom with 2 double wardrobes * Freshly decorated * Freshly cleaned carpets and new blinds * Drying area and allocated parking space		<b>Flat 1 17 Park Street</b> * Ground floor duplex-flat * 1 bedroom * Kitchen with oven & fridge * Spacious accommodation * GCH & UPVC windows * Enclosed private garden * Available now!		<b>72 Oldbury Road</b> * Shop with warehouse/storage area * Good-sized first floor offices * Main road position * Paved forecourt * 187.37 sq.m. (approx 2,016 sq.ft.) * Available now
<b>Monthly rent of £465</b>		<b>Monthly rent of £400</b>		<b>Monthly rent of £395</b>		<b>Annual rent Of £8,500</b>	
CRADLEY HEATH		OLDBURY		ROWLEY REGIS		ROWLEY REGIS	
	<b>HADEN HILL AREA Flat 4 The Old Vicarage 439 Halesowen Road</b> * Self contained flat * one bedroom * upvc double glazed windows * shower over bath * electric heating * parking		<b>Flat 3 Quayside Close</b> * Self contained ground floor flat * One bedroom * Double glazed windows * Open plan living room kitchen * Electric heating * Car space * Available from 1st October		<b>Blackheath 27, 27a, 28 &amp; 28a High Street</b> Retail/residential property investment in a High Street location comprising two lock up shops and a one bedroom and a bedsit flat.	<b>Offers in the region of £200,000</b>	
<b>Monthly rent of £375</b>		<b>Monthly rent of £360</b>					



**Dudley**

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# New fleet gets the word on the street for estate agent

Paul Dubberley Estate Agents has just launched its new fleet of eco-friendly Citroen C1 cars with eye catching company branding which is sure to get them noticed as they buzz around the regions streets.

The Citroen C1 cars are capable of over 70mpg and have a low CO2 Emissions rating of just 103 g/km.

Lee Morton, managing partner of Paul Dubberley estate agents said: "It is important for us that the cars not only look great but are also good for the environment."

"I'm delighted that we have managed to achieve both our aims."

Paul Dubberley estate agents has branches in West Bromwich, Wednesbury, Tipton, Willenhall and Bilston.



Lee Morton, managing partner of Paul Dubberley Estate Agents



Steve Reade, Lee Smith and Steven Sutton in the eco cars

# Large detached home near to railway walk



The Willows is a large detached home, on the market for £395,000 via estate agent Berriman Eaton

Offers in the region of £395,000 are being invited for this modern, five-bedroom detached executive home situated on the outskirts of Wombourne with views to the rear over farmland.

The property, in Bratch Lane, is within a short distance of the picturesque Bratch Locks and the Kingswinford railway walk.

The Willows comprises entrance hall with guest cloakroom, through lounge with feature gas fire and doors to the rear garden, dining room with bay window to the rear. Modern breakfast kitchen with integrated appliances and a separate sitting room with access to a utility.

The first floor landing leads to a master bedroom with built-in wardrobes and en-suite shower room, guest suite with built-in wardrobes and en-suite shower room, three further bedrooms (two with built-in wardrobes) and a family bathroom with spa bath.

## Approached

Situated in a corner plot position the property is approached over a shared driveway which in turn leads to a black paved double width driveway and a detached double garage with side access to the rear garden.

On the ground floor the lounge, measuring 21ft 3in by 10ft 7in, features a living flame gas fire with ornate surround with marble hearth and inset, laminate flooring and double glazed doors to the rear.

The dining room is 13ft by 9ft 3in, while the breakfast kitchen - 16ft 5in by 9ft - comprises base cupboards and drawers with work surface above, sink, matching wall cupboards, integrated appliances to include dishwasher, fridge and freezer and wine rack.

Also on the ground floor is a guest cloakroom with WC, sitting room and utility, while on the first floor are the five bedrooms.

The double garage measures 18ft 10in by 17ft 5in.

The private rear garden includes a paved patio, shaped lawn with shrub borders with mature shrubs and trees and further patio areas to the rear.

For more details, or to book a viewing, contact Berriman Eaton on 01902 326366.

Lettings **hickshadley.com** 0121 585 6688

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### HALESOWEN, FAIRFIELD ROAD

A unique opportunity to rent this stunning 4 bedrooms detached home in central Halesowen, comprising of: Four Bedrooms, Two Large Lounges, Beautiful Fitted Kitchen with Built in Appliances, Spacious Bathroom with Separate Shower Cubicle, En-Suite to Master Bedroom, Gas Central Heating, Part Double Glazing, Private Rear Garden, Off Road Parking

**£1100 PCM**



### HALESOWEN, CLANCEY WAY

This well presented and modern new build has come on the market, comprises of: Four Bedrooms, House Bathroom with Shower, Master with En-Suite, Large Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Small Rear Garden, Separate Garage. Viewing is Recommended, Unfurnished

**£775 PCM**



### ROWLEY REGIS, SIDAWAY CLOSE

A much improved and extended detached house, set in a cul-de-sac location, comprises of: Three Bedrooms, Refitted Dining Kitchen, Modern Lounge, Separate Dining Area, Master with En-Suite, Refitted Bathroom, Driveway Parking for 3/4 Cars, Rear Garden, Unfurnished

**£750 PCM**



### TIVIDALE, ASHTREE ROAD

A 3 Bed Linked Detached Property, Benefiting from Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Living Room, Dining Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Front and Rear Gardens, Driveway and Garage.

**£650 PCM**



### HALESOWEN, SUMMERFIELDS AVENUE

Ideally located in Hurst Green, close to popular school, motorway access and commutable to Birmingham, is this lovely semi-detached home, briefly comprising of: Three Large Bedrooms, Two Spacious Reception Rooms, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom with Shower, Front and Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking and Garage

**£650 PCM**



### HALESOWEN, HUNTLANDS ROAD

Located on the Huntlands Estate, is this three storey terraced property, close to Halesowen town centre, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Double Glazing, Warm Air Heating, Family Bathroom, Front and Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking

**£625 PCM**



### HALESOWEN, SANDERSON PLACE

A brand new unfurnished first floor apartment, briefly comprising of: Spacious Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Master with En-Suite, Bathroom and Parking Space. Viewing Highly Recommended.

**£625 PCM**



### HALESOWEN, WROXLEY HOUSE

Luxury Living in Hayley Green. A superb, first floor apartment, comprising of: Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen and Diner with French Doors to Balcony, Two Double Bedrooms, Master with En-Suite, Further Well Appointed Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing and Allocated Parking.

**£625 PCM**



### HALESOWEN, MIDDLEFIELD AVENUE

Located in Hurst Green is this unfurnished semi detached house, comprising of: Gas Central Heating, 20ft Through Lounge/Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Garage and Driveway, Low Maintenance Gardens, Very Popular Area with Viewings Highly Recommended

**£595 PCM**



### HALESOWEN, CLENT VIEW ROAD

A very spacious semi-detached home has come on the market in a very popular location, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Large Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, House Bathroom, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front and Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished Undergoing Decoration At The Moment

**£550 PCM**



### CRADLEY HEATH, WOODFIELD AVENUE

An excellently presented 2 bedroom mid terrace property situated within a nice residential area, featuring: New Fitted Kitchen, Low Maintenance Rear Garden, Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Parking for 2 Cars, Unfurnished

**£550 PCM**



### HALESOWEN, CHERRY STREET

Located on a very popular road is this furnished to suit modern end terrace house, comprising of: Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Secure Parking To The Rear, Rear Garden, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Well Worth A Viewing

**£525 PCM**



### STOURBRIDGE, TURNEY ROAD

Located in a quiet cul-de-sac is this unfurnished semi detached house, comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Large Living Room, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, One Single Bedroom, Modern Bathroom with Shower, Large Rear Garden, Ample Driveway Parking, Close to all local amenities

**£525 PCM**



### ROWLEY REGIS, MINCING LANE

A newly refurbished terraced house, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, New Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Driveway Parking for 2 Cars, Rear Garden, Unfurnished

**£525 PCM**



### CRADLEY HEATH, SOUTHGATE

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**£495 PCM**



### ROWLEY REGIS, HIGHFIELD ROAD

This spacious and unfurnished terraced home has: Two Reception Rooms, Three Double Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, On Road Parking

**£495 PCM**



### CRADLEY HEATH, SUTHERLAND ROAD

An unfurnished semi detached house, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Fitted Dining Kitchen with White Goods, Downstairs WC, Three Bedrooms, House Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, Driveway Parking

**£495 PCM**



### DUDLEY, LANTERN ROAD

Beautifully presented and refurbished to a high standard is this mid terrace home, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Rear Garden and Patio Area, Allocated Parking

**£495 PCM**



### CRADLEY HEATH, VICTORIA ROAD

An Unfurnished semi detached house briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Kitchen, Living Room, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking

**£475 PCM**



### HALESOWEN, HAGLEY ROAD

An immaculately presented ground floor one bedroom flat, within walking distance to Halesowen Town Centre, briefly comprising of: Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower over Bath, Allocated Parking Space, Unfurnished.

**£475 PCM**



### WOOLASTON, SHERWOOD ROAD

Located a short walk from local shops and bus routes is this furnished first floor flat, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living/Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Separate WC, Communal Garden

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Professionally styled family homes, named the Brentwood and the Woodbridge, are now open for viewing

## New show homes open to the public

HOUSEBUILDER Barratt West Midlands is giving homebuyers in Worcester plenty to see at its Willis Place development, where two new show homes from the company's brand new range of properties are available to view.

These family homes, named the Brentwood and the Woodbridge, have been professionally styled by interior specialists Claude Hooper and offer buyers an excellent chance to see how their home could take shape at these sought after developments.

"Our new show homes are perfect for families who would like to see how their new home could look here and we're delighted to offer homebuyers a first glimpse of Barratt's new range of property styles, comments Graydon Worthing, Sales Director for Barratt West Midlands.

"The range marks the culmination of a major brand makeover. During the last three years we have invested in build quality, customer service and development layout. The re-design of the homes represents the latest stage in this customer-centred evolution.

"The Brentwood and Woodbridge-style properties showcase many of the fantastic features our new homes have, including open-plan floor layouts which give you a space big enough to be used in a variety of ways. This gives purchasers the option to arrange the layout of their home the way they want to, for example deciding to have

the dining room in the kitchen. Younger buyers are especially fond of having this option." The Brentwood is a three-bedroom home and was designed with a palette of black and green that give the house a modern and sophisticated look. The furniture placed throughout the house is predominantly chrome and black glass.

There are two children's bedrooms on the first floor. One of the bedrooms is a boy's room with a golf theme which is perfect as this bedroom window looks out the entrance of Worcester's golf club. The second bedroom is a twin bedroom which has a Cinderella theme because of the development being on the old Cinderella Works factory site. This bedroom also has a mural of this Disney film on the wall.

The generously spaced Woodbridge show home is designed with a palette of white and olive green. These colours give the house a very light, airy and fresh feeling. The wallpaper is white with a pearl sheen that reflects lighting to give the house an open feel. Thanks to Barratt's new range the Woodbridge has full height glazed bay windows and roof windows to maximize natural light and optimize views.

There are two children's bedrooms situated on the first floor. For more information, please contact the sales office on 07834 543793 open daily between 10am and 5pm.

Call the sales hotline on 0844 811 9933 open seven days a week 8am to 9pm or see [www.barratthomes.co.uk/willisplace](http://www.barratthomes.co.uk/willisplace)



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# Motor Market Expands With New Site

**C**radley Heath based car dealership Motor Market Limited continues to buck the trend in these tough economic times and have invested heavily in further expanding its business.



Already well respected for its approach to providing excellent customer service and value for money, Motor Market recently acquired the freehold to the former Crown Works engineering site adjacent to its existing premises. The additional space has allowed the business to improve its preparation and storage facilities and increase its stock holding capacity to 120+ cars.

Over the past few months the development has transformed a small corner of Newtown Lane, Cradley Heath from a series of dilapidated outbuildings and disused wasteland, to a striking modern facility that complements their original site opposite. A challenging project involved the initial demolition of derelict buildings and then the excavation and removal of over 800m<sup>3</sup> of subsoil to provide a level base. 60 tonne of basalt stone provides the floor

covering all retained by new brick work boundary walls and wrought iron fence details, which provide a striking frontage to the Newtown Lane aspect.

Owned by local brothers Dean and Adam Bridge Motor Market specialise in providing quality used vehicles between the £2995 and £6995 price ranges. Partnerships with major finance companies such as Close Motor Finance, Barclays and Santander also ensure they can provide competitive finance whenever it's required. As standard all vehicles are provided with a 72 point pre delivery inspection, clean



HPI reports, 12 months MOT and comprehensive mechanical warranties.

When asked the secret to their success, Dean commented. "I don't think it's ever that simple or there's a single ingredient to making a successful business. For us the key has been to focus on what's important to our customers. We've never been in any doubt about this, their feedback tells us that excellent customer service, value for money and a comprehensive choice are the vital things that influence customers decision to buy.

We have always made a great effort to service

customers well, often going beyond what's typical in the used car market, but the fact 70% of our business now comes from repeat customers or personal recommendation shows us this policy is a worthwhile investment.

Also having been born, brought up and still living in the area we are well aware of peoples expectation when it comes to value for money, we work very hard to source competitively and combined with a no frills, lean approach to unnecessary overheads, we keep our prices extremely keen, without comprising on the quality of the finished car".

Adam went on to explain "the real driver behind the investment in this new facility is additional choice for our customers. We have always held a good stock of Ford, Vauxhall, Renault, Peugeot and Citroen, also we have now been able to expand this with Volkswagen, Jaguar, BMW, Mini and more means with over 120+ cars on display we now offer customers the widest choice of used stock in the area." So with the powerful



combination of increased choice, great value and excellent customer service Motor Market look very well positioned to serve the local used car market for many years to come.

## Motor Market

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### LOST

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01902 409950, 07732 089974.

LOST-Tortoiseshell Cat, since September 15, Penfields Area, Daisy, very timid, microchipped. 01902 334394 eve or weekends.

LOST-Yorkshire Terrier, Wimborne Road, Wton, on Thursday afternoon, September 29, 01902 567215 / 07949 095601.

## personal

A GOALKEEPING SCHOOL, has places available, for ages 5 years up to 17 years. 07778 145597.

ARE YOU LOOKING To fill those few spare hours? Dudley Hospital Radio are looking for volunteers to walk the ward's and collect record requests from the patients at Russell's Hall Hospital, Dudley. We are looking for daytime and evening volunteers, approx 3 hrs per week, minimum age 21 years. For more info contact us on 01354 234222, e-mail: studio@dudleyhospitalradio.co.uk or write to us at Dudley Hospital Radio, Russell's Hall Hospital, Dudley, DY1 2HQ. www.dudleyhospitalradio.co.uk



### BREWOOD J.F.C. UNDER 15'S

Are looking for players to strengthen squad.

Can you commit to training once a week and to playing Sunday afternoons.

Contact Andy 07595 652356 or Paul 07740 484800.



### DECENT LOVING HARD WORKING MALE

Late 40's, considered attractive, 6ft, shaven head and blue eyes. No ties. WLTm, genuine, honest, loving female for loving tender relationship.

Box Number P17330, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.



### FOOTBALLERS WANTED

All positions considered for a well run, Wolverhampton Sunday Morning Adult Team. Short of a few pieces of the jigsaw, to be serious contenders. Must be reliable and committed. If interested call me on 07702 538835.

### GENTLEMAN, 56

Very smart looking, likes sport, eating out and holidays seeks lady, slim, 50-60, smoker preferred and car driver, Dudley area.

Box Number P17320,

Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.



### GENTLEMAN, LATE 50'S

Who lives on his own, with his own business, seeking a lady 40+, for a long term relationship, genuine replies only.

Box Number P17314,

Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.



### HOLY TRINITY RC SCHOOL, BILSTON

Do you remember the large shiny wooden horse in class infants. I attended the school from 1950-60, we all loved the horse, it would be great to see it back in its rightful place, forming part of the school's history now the old school's hall decorating is complete. A marble was in the hole where the tail never was all the time I went to the school. If you have any information please write to:

Box Number P17329,

Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.



### KIND, ROMANTIC MALE

Sixty-seven, seeking Female 50-55 to talk maybe more.

Box Number C17335,

Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.



### MALE 60'S

Non smoker, slim build, WLTm honest, genuine lady for holidays and possible relationship. Age 40-50, unimportant, Stourbridge area.

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Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.



### OLD SWINFORD YOUTHS

Under 12's require 2 players to strengthen squad for 11-a-side, (School year 7), 14 years Coaching Experience, level 1 and 2 Coaching Badge. Call Ben 01354 831002 or Tom on 07900 001274.

### OLYMPIC PARK AND GREENWICH TOUR

October 14th and 15th, 2011. 2 places available. £99.95 per person. Call 01902 893883.



### PENN COLTS FC

UNDER 15'S

Players are required for all positions.

For training and match times

Contact Wez

07702 359939.

### PRESENTABLE GENT LATE 50'S

Good job, OHAC, enjoys weekends away, social drinks and eating out, GSOH, seeks presentable lady with similar outlook.

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### SCHOOL REUNION

Holyhead Road School, Wednesbury, October 13, from 7.30pm onwards. For all past pupils who left before 1962.

janroy@telefonica.net



### STAR EXTRA TRAVEL

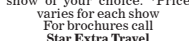
White Christmas at the Royal Albert Hall December 17, from £99.95 Return coach, overnight bed and breakfast, ticket for the show and free time in London.

Male Voice Choirs 50th Anniversary Concert March 24, from £129.95 Return coach, overnight bed and breakfast, a ticket for the concert at the MEN Arena and a visit to Chester.

Eden Winter Festival November 25, from £139 Return coach, two nights half-board, entrance to the Eden Project and visits to Clark's Shopping Village and Bath Christmas Markets.

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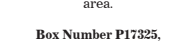
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Wishes to meet other ladies for Friendship, nights out and shopping trips.

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Cosford Lots wanted for October 17 sale. Antiques, Collectables, House Clearances, Probate. Monday - Friday 11am-4pm. Tel 01902 375555

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# sport

# YELTZ SETTLE FOR SINGLE GOAL WIN

## HALESOWEN TOWN 1 DIDCOT TOWN 0

HALESOWEN eased into fourth place with their second home win in four days thanks to Lee Chilton's late strike.

Before Chilton's intervention – which came two minutes from time – the game appeared to be heading for a disappointing draw with hard working Didcot impressing under the guidance of new boss Dave Mudge.

The Yeltz only created two real chances in the first half with visiting goalkeeper Jon Beames making a good save from Justin Nisbett's fine solo run and shot.

The lively Nisbett then delivered an excellent cross for Chilton at the far post but Beames did well to turn the ball away for a corner.

Didcot created a series of half chances, with Lee Henderson heading a corner over the bar and Simon Howell latching onto a long clearance before seeing Yeltz keeper Paul Evans push his shot away.

### Curled

A drab second half had little goalmouth action until Didcot's Joss Millar attempted a 67th minute long range weak shot and Naveed Arshad curled a free kick past the post for Halesowen.

The Yeltz introduced Nathan Jackson with 20 minutes remaining in an urgent attempt to instil more of a threat.

Chilton had a penalty appeal turned down and then Miller skipped past several challenges for Didcot before his shot was blocked by keeper Evans. However, the Railwaymen's resilience was finally broken in the 88th minute when Jackson set Nisbett free down the left and he cleverly beat his marker before squaring the ball for Chilton to fire home from close range.

In the fourth minute of stoppage time Chilton set Nisbett free but his effort was cleared as Halesowen settled for a hard-earned 1-0 victory.

## HALESOWEN TOWN 3 THATCHAM TOWN 0

TWO injury time goals from Justin Nisbett and Naveed Arshad completed an impressive Halesowen victory against previously unbeaten Thatcham.

After a slow start to the game Nisbett surged forward from midfield and skipped several challenges, only to see his 20 yard shot fly wide.

Arshad then turned well to hit a long range effort past the post and Anthony Bruce flicked Brendan Kelly's 10th minute cross wide.

Thatcham settled midway through the first half and home goalkeeper Paul Evans had to be alert to collect Mark James' dangerous shot.

Evans then produced a terrific reaction stop to keep out Sean Cook's header from a Jack Smillie corner two minutes later.

However the best chance of the first period fell for the Yeltz when Arshad planted a half-volley beyond Paul Stradley's post from a tight angle.

The Kingfishers enjoyed a good spell in the second half with Halesowen thanking goalkeeper Evans for keeping the scores level.

Cook advanced on goal after blocking Mark Smith's clearance, but Evans rescued his team mate and then the keeper made a reflex save when Mark Green was put through on goal.

Halesowen's response to the pressure ultimately won them the game, with Thatcham unable to cope with a late Yeltz onslaught.

After Nisbett nodded a great chance just wide captain Gavin Saunders gave the Yeltz the lead on 71 minutes, nodding home Chilton's corner.

Substitute Sam Tucker flashed just five minutes from the end but Halesowen wrapped up the win in stoppage time when Nisbett tapped into the net after Chilton's shot rattled the crossbar.

Even better followed in the 94th minute when Arshad smashed home a brilliant solo effort to seal a 3-0 win.

David Johnson

# Colts are overpowered by Moseley

**Moseley Colts 42 Old Halesonians Colts 13**  
The game started with both teams looking to impose themselves on the field in terms of possession and territory and it was

Moseley who scored the first points of the match with a try after 15 minutes. A few minutes later the referee awarded a penalty to Moseley following an infringement by Old Hales at the breakdown.

Moseley took the opportunity to extend their lead to eight points.

Old Hales regrouped and took the game to Moseley, resulting in a Penalty which full-back Billy Taylor put between the posts.

Moseley also regrouped and worked their way up the field to score another try.

After being awarded a penalty, Old Hales kicked for the corner and executed a catch and drive resulting in a try for Michael Topping. Billy Taylor was unable to add the extras.

Old Hales found themselves with a similar opportunity on the other side of the pitch and again executed another catch and drive resulting in another try for Michael Topping.

The ref's whistle for half time came with the score tied at 13 all. Moseley started the second half with some pace and physicality and Old Hales had to work hard to contain

them, but with eight minutes gone, Moseley breached the Old Hales lines to score.

Old Hales again infringed at the breakdown after the restart and Moseley took the three points to extend their lead to 10 points.

Old Hales were forced to defend for much of this period and it was the stranger Moseley side that scored two tries in the space of three minutes. Old Hales did not stop contesting for the game, but it was Moseley who finished the match off with another try and conversion to win 42 points to 13.

Old Hales can take heart from a strong performance against the league leaders.

# Hawks land on the eagles

## Girls League

### Kewford 1 Hawks 4

Halas Hawks U10s girls beat Kewford Eagles with an excellent 4-0 victory which takes the girls top of the league. In a tight first half the Kewford keeper was in fine form to keep the score line level at half time but in the second half Hannah Fellows scored a hat trick with a fourth being put away by Kirsty Hampton.

### Gornal 3 Hawks 2

After conceding two early goals to Gornal, the U14 girls fought back to level the score with both coming from Sophie Pritchard. An excellent performance from the Gornal keeper prevented Halas from claiming victory, but the game was snatched away in the last few minutes when Gornal scored the winner.

### Bridgnorth 1 Hawks 4

The U15s had a difficult game at Bridgnorth but won the game with a great hat trick from Laura Smith and a first goal of the season for Elisha Rose. It was a great all round team effort with a solid performance by Paige Dudley in defence.

## Boys League

### Hawks East 2 Withymoor 0

The U9s East got off to a good start against Withymoor with an early goal by Jack Plant but then had to soak up a lot of pressure from a good Withymoor side. With some brave defending and an outstanding

second goal by Liam Jones saw Halas see out an overall deserved 2-0 win.

Man of the match went to Tommy Swancott for some die hard tackling.

### CS Colts 2 Halas Hawks East 2

Halas East travelled to CS Colts and came out of the blocks flying with the best first half performance of the season playing some lovely football and going in two up at half time through Oliver Miller & Rickio Fairin-Hall.

The second half was the opposite of the first with CS having the downhill slope and all of the play and equalizing in the last few minutes. The man of the match awards went to Donovan Westwood and Sam Ball.

**Netherton West 3 Halas Hawks 3**  
The U12s lost 5-3 to Netherton Colts West, their goals coming from Nicholas Bennett (2) and Jonty Round.

### Sedgley White Lions 3 Halas Hawks 3

The U13s suffered a disappointing defeat against a determined Sedgley side. Halas were on top for most of the first half but gave away a soft goal followed by a Sedgley penalty before Halas pulled one back through Josh Bernard to set up an exciting finish, but it was Sedgley who finished the game off with their third goal.

### Halas Hawks 2

### Kewford Eagles South 5

The U14s had a bright start against Kewford Eagles South taking the lead through Jack Guest but they failed to capi-

talize and Kewford hit back with three quick goals. Dominic Hipkiss narrowed the gap with a well worked goal but Kewford scored two more to make the final score 5-2. Stand in keeper Adam Higginson made a fine penalty save but man of the match went to Dominic Hipkiss.

### Ashmore Park Rangers 4

### Halas Hawks 2

The U17s were slow out of the blocks against Ashmore Park and were 2-0 down within 10 minutes. Halas pulled the game back to 2-2 through Joe Powell and Ben Hughes, but the Ashmore Park team stepped up the gears and went into the half time break 4-2 in the lead with no more goals added in the second half.

## Ladies

### Kenilworth 3 Halas Hawks 4

Halas Hawks Ladies travelled to Premier League opponents, Kenilworth Ladies in the Open Cup but they handled the more experienced Kenilworth side well and deservedly took a 3-1 lead into the second half with goals from Katie Monk, Becky Allsopp and Jodie Jones.

The second half saw Kenilworth score a late equalizer to take the game into extra time which Halas, having only one substitute, didn't want, but they were the team that handled the conditions better scoring the winner with a bullet header by Tash Berry from a Katie Monk corner.

## Braunstone Sports Trophy Gala

Senior swimmers from Halesowen Swimming Club were back in action after the summer at the Braunstone Sports Trophy Gala in Leicester on Saturday.

Despite it being the first gala after many weeks the team were as strong as ever and finished in first place for the majority of races. The evening of excellent performances saw the club in the top position by 31 points.

Double event winners were **Josh Bradley** – individual medley and freestyle; **James Benson** – backstroke and freestyle; **Jacob Darby** – butterfly and breaststroke; **Chloe Robbins** – backstroke and freestyle and **Chloe Finch** – butterfly and freestyle.

Other individual first places went to **Jack Simpson** and **Zach Collins** – backstroke; **Ruby Fell**, **India Hanks**, and **Connor Oates** – breaststroke; **Hannah Cuthbert**, **Luke Morris** and **Lauren Hill** – butterfly and **Jack Slattery** – freestyle.

The relay teams won both the medley and freestyle relays. Relay teams included **Katherine Morris**, **Indu Appannna**, **Emma Bird**, **Jacob Baker**, **Ben Meakin** and **James Cuthbert** for the 9 to 11-year-olds, **Sam Bradley**, **Wood**, **George Davies** and **Mark Laing** for the 13-year-olds, **Lilian Parsons**, **Sian Carey**, **Shannon O'Brien**, **Ryan Davies** and **Joe Coxon** for the 15-year-olds and **Rebecca Spoor**, **Sophie Paige**, **Bethany Jackson**, **Richard Phillips** and **Harry Cowley** for the Open age group.

Final scores were Halesowen 313, Braunstone A 282, Coalville 208, Braunstone B 186, Market Harborough 185, Leicester Neptune 154 and Braunstone C 55.

# Hales get their season off to a steady start with a victory

## OLD HALESONIANS HOCKEY CLUB

### Aldridge & Walsall 1 OHHC 1st XI 3

Old Halesonians Hockey 1st XI got their season off to a steady start with a 3-1 away win against Aldridge & Walsall.

It was Hales who struck first when striker Graham Knight made a driving run towards the goal. Knight sidestepped the goalkeeper to leave an easy finish, to gives the visitors a 1-0 lead into the half time break.

Hales found themselves all square soon after half time. A short corner strike from A&W took a somewhat unlucky deflection from Ben Hughes, which saw the ball loop over towards the goal and hit fellow defender Chris Wattleby on the line.

The umpire awarded a penalty flick, which was scored by the A&W striker. However, the equaliser just spurred the visiting Hales side on, and they were soon back in front when Knight grabbed his second goal of the game.

Old Halesonians grabbed the winner with less than 10 minutes left, when Captain Doug Houghton made a defence splitting pass to Chris Whitley who absolutely powered the ball into the top corner past the helpless A&W keeper.

Old Halesonians host Hampton-In-Arden this Saturday, 1.30pm at Great Park, Rubery.

### OHHC 2nd XI 2

### Aldridge & Walsall 2

It was like Old Hales simply didn't turn up for the first 10 minutes of the game, and

A&W found themselves with a 2-0 lead. The first came from Jake Brooke, who scored an own goal.

Adam Hill pulled one back after a fine ball across from Nick Truelove. Hill then turned provider 10 minutes later as Nathan Kelly scored.

Hales dominated the second half but could not find a winning goal, as the heat and some solid defending kept Old Hales at bay. Hales 2nd XI will travel to Old Wulfrunians next.

### Streety 0 OHHC 3rd XI 4

Nic Penn and Steve Butler broke on the counter attack early on, and found only the keeper to beat.

Penn squared the ball to Butler who had an empty net. Hales doubled their lead when Tom Bolton picked up the ball on the half way line and beat the defender, where he unselfishly laid the ball off to Butler who grabbed his 2nd goal of the game.

Nic Penn put his name on the score sheet, as Hales went 3-0 up before half time. The fourth and final goal was scored by Bolton from the edge of the D.

### Other results

**OHHC 4th XI 4 Bournville1** with goals from Mark O'Connell double, Jim Gurmin and Darren Rose.

**OHHC 5th XI** fell just short of a point in their opening game, as they lost 5-4 to Worcester.

**OHHC Ladies** narrowly lost 2-1 to Droitwich.

# Halesonians keep hold of unbroken run in the league

## OLD HALESONIANS 31 STRATFORD 17

Old Halesonians continued their 100 percent start with another bonus point win, this time a 31-17 home win against Stratford.

The game was played against a sober backdrop as during the same fixture last season a Stratford player suffered a life-changing injury so both players and spectators thoughts were with him and his family.

Hales dominated the opening exchanges from the kick off having spurned three or four chances until debut winger Bruce Sabel finally glided over for a try following a period of sustained pressure.

This was duly converted by Chris Hooper for a 7-0 lead. The lead was doubled on the 15 minute mark when a Hales scrum 35 metres out led to a well-executed backs move giving centre Hadden the space to run in unopposed. Hooper converted for 14-0.

A fourth try came from the restart when a well-caught ball was followed by what can only be described as carnival rugby with the vast majority of the Hales side showing good interplay for Jay Martin to go over close to the posts. Hooper does not miss chances like this and Old Hales had a 21-0 lead.

## Opportunity

The visitors looked dumbstruck when shortly after Hales forwards produced good ball from a quick line out well inside their own half giving the backs opportunity to spread their legs sending Hooper over in the left corner for the try. Unfortunately Hooper does miss chances like this, 26-0.

Just before half time Stratford showed that this was not to be the Hales show when a series of penalties given away following a sustained period of pressure resulted in John Mucklow being bundled over in the right hand corner. An unsuccessful conversion left Hales leading 26-5 at half time.

Ten minutes into the second half Hales continued with much the same and another well-worked try. The ball going through a number of hands and phases firstly left to right then returning to eventually find Hooper going over in the corner. This took the lead to 31-5 and Hooper's personal tally to 16 points.

## Adv antage

Old Halesonians seemed to think the job was done with the game turning into a tighter affair. Midway through the second half the visitors took advantage of an innocuous penalty by kicking deep into the corner and a well-worked lineout was turned into a deserved barrelling score for T Chadwick.

The game petered out until the final moments of injury time when a number of pick and drive assaults on the Old Hales line resulted in an unconverted try for the visitors, the game finishing at 31-17. A special mention has to go to fly half Dean Powell who, like a boy in his dad's shorts, seems to be growing in stature with every performance.

After the match vice-captain Stephen Head, said: "Although it was a good bonus point win we yet again seemed to take our foot off the gas instead of finishing off the opposition. Although it is a proud moment for my father Mark who has played against them many times over the years."

This was followed with a heavy win for the second team and a narrow defeat for the thirds.

Next week Old Hales face a tough away trip to league leaders Sutton Coldfield which could go some way to deciding much in a competitive league.

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